Daily Report

Latin America

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Jurists Group Condemns U.S. Military Presence

PY2006220091 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Sucre, 14 Jun—The ninth continental congress of the Latin American Association of Jurists, which was recently held in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, condemned the U.S. military presence in Bolivia and other nations in the region, expressed its solidarity with Bolivian coca growers, and urged the Bolivian Government to cancel the pertinent agreement signed with the U.S. Government.

Dr. Humberto Gorena, who attended the congress, said a resolution had been issued stating that a foreign military presence in coca-producing countries is not the only method of fighting drug trafficking and that, above all, major drug consumers like the United States should control and fight drug trafficking in their own territories.

He said: "The problem of drug trafficking in underdeveloped countries will be solved when appropriate prices are paid to peasants for their traditional crops, when land reform takes place, and when measures are implemented to allow a more direct participation of society in decisionmaking and in efforts to improve the living standards of towns which are in less favorable positions. This improvement should be applied particularly to the youth sector and should be coupled with fair salaries and other specific policies to overcome backwardness, misery, ignorance, and starvation." [passage omitted]

COPPPAL Opens 16th Plenary Assembly

PY2506011891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0151 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Valparaiso, 23 Jun (EFE)—The Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL) began its 16th plenary assembly meeting in the Senate's honor hall at the Chilean Congress building on 23 June. The meeting is being attended by 90 delegates from 43 political groups.

Chilean Senate Speaker Gabriel Valdes and Chilean Senators Hernan Vodanovic and Anselmo Sule delivered speeches during the ceremony, while COPPPAL President Luis Donaldo Colosio—a senator for Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)—took the floor on behalf of the sponsoring organization.

Valdes said he was proud to open, for the first time since the Congress was installed in Valparaiso 15 months ago, an international meeting of such significance.

He said the world is living in a new time "similar to the period at the end of the Roman Empire when everything was put at stake to begin a decisive period of development in the arts and sciences." He added that at this moment "the role of politicians is particularly significant."

Socialist Party (PS) Senator Hernan Vodanovic said the COPPPAL is "a privileged place for international action by the PS." He said he was pleased with the fact that the agenda of this plenary assembly includes major issues like the ongoing integration processes.

The meeting, which will be closed tomorrow by Chilean Education Minister Ricardo Lagos, is Latin America's most important political forum. Its resolutions have direct influence on decisions adopted by several Latin American governments.

The working committees of the plenary assembly today began to exchange views on the Mexican-U.S. treaty, U.S. President George Bush's Americas Initiative, relations between the EEC and Latin America, the future of the Andean Pact, and the possibilities of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the Pacific Basin.

M-19 Leader at COPPPAL, Comments on FPMR

PY2506025491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] (Rafael Vergara), a member of the national leadership of the Colombian 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [M-19], has stated that negotiations and dialogue are essential to bring peace to Latin American countries.

(Vergara) is representing his party—the former guerrilla 19 April Movement, which is currently a major Colombian political organization—at the plenary assembly meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties [COPPPAL] in Valparaiso.

(Vergara) acknowledged that there were contacts between the M-19 and the Chilean Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] several years ago. These contacts took place at meetings that involved many other armed Latin American groups. (Vergara) said: We met with people from the FPMR at meetings held in many places around the world.

He further explained that there have been no recent contacts and that the latest information he has heard on the FPMR is that it plans to return to the fold of democracy. Vergara added that although he did not wish to appear arrogant, his advice to the FPMR was that national integration and peace were Latin America's most urgent goals.

[Begin (Vergara) recording] You know, we believe that the armed struggle is not a principle but rather the means to attain objectives. Once these essential objectives are achieved, one ought to say that the time has come.... [changes thought] As I said a while ago, one cannot tell the other side to surrender. All sides must display generosity and understanding because the whole point is to reach an agreement among citizens of the same country. [end recording]

(Vergara) emphasized that negotiations are honorable and that national unity is required to deal with the world powers that are now acting together, as has been proved by the Gulf war. He stressed that the M-19 did not surrender its arms in Colombia but rather abandoned them, destroyed them, and melted them down to make a sculpture to peace, which will soon be dedicated in a square in Bogota.

Serrano Opens Meeting of C.A. Parliament

PA2506021391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2240 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 June (ACAN - EFE)—President Jorge Serrano said today that Central America does not just want the establishment of a free trade zone but also "a true integration of our peoples."

While inaugurating the first preparatory meeting for the installation of the Central American Parliament, Serrano said that he, as well as his counterparts Alfredo Cristiani (El Salvador) and Rafael Callejas (Honduras), decided to lend their full support to the regional forum.

"The Central American Parliament, and the future steps we will take toward (regional) unity, already fully implies that our objective is not just the creation of a free trade zone but also the true integration of our peoples," he noted.

Attending the meeting, which concludes tomorrow, are the deputies elected to the Central American Parliament from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and observers from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The Guatemalan president stated that he had already talked to Cristiani and Callejas, who agree in promoting the Central American Parliament, which, he noted, is "necessary at this time for the region's development." Serrano noted that in the future those barriers hampering the free movement of Central Americans in the region and the flow of capital and merchandise, and, "most of all, the flow of ideas and integration" will be lifted.

He indicated that without the unity of Central Americans they will not be able to do anything in the face of economic blocs that constitute major exporting powers.

"The Central American Parliament is called upon to become the most important regional forum and the place where the structures that will strengthen the ties of unity among our peoples will be established," Serrano stressed.

Nicaragua has not yet elected its 20 representatives to the forum, and Costa Rica has not ratified the charter treaty, drafted by the Central American presidents in 1987. In addition, the possible incorporation of Panama and Belize is under consideration.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister on Caribbean Ties

FL2406145991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Report by Colin King]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 21, CANA—Venezuela Foreign Minister Armando Duran, in Barbados to pursue deeper bilateral relations, has said Venezuelan efforts at closer Caribbean ties are necessary for the strengthening of regional countries.

"We understand that sometimes we are seen as a very big brother but it is a very relative business.... We are very big but we are very weak too and the only way to strengthen ourself is to strengthen all of us together," Duran said Thursday night.

During his 24-hour visit ending Friday evening Duran will examine with senior Barbados Government officials the possibilities of setting up one-way access to the Venezuelan market for Barbados exports, involving gradual reduction of tariffs until there is duty-free entry after five years. After five years, Barbados would then start a five-year process of reducing tariffs on its imports from Venezuela, so that after another five years there is two-way duty-free access.

Venezuela is already moving towards a similar arrangement with its neighbouring Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] state Guyana and will propose the arrangement, on a Caribbean multilateral basis, at July's Caricom summit in St. Kitts. Duran said Venezuela will also propose a similar arrangement for Central American States July 15. It is already making free trade arrangements with the other South American countries.

On Friday Venezuela and Barbados were expected to establish a "joint political mechanism for consultation and exchange of information"—a steering committee to follow up on specifics of co-operation matters agreed on by the two states.

Duran said the discussions here would include such matters of concern as the joint fight against illicit drugs, and the Caribbean environmental programme under which countries have agreed to protect the Caribbean basin.

The president of the Venezuelan Tourism Organisation, part of the delegation, is also expected to have discussions on possible cooperation in the tourism sector.

A representative each from the Venezuelan State Oil Company and Oil Ministry on the delegation are also expected to discuss continued cooperation: "There might be some cooperation in that area also," Duran said.

On the perception of Caribbean uneasiness about excessive Venezuelan dominance or "imperialism" in the region, Duran said Venezuela's past record has been disproving such fears.

"I think that has been dissolving over the years. We have proven we are not an imperialist country. On the contrary we are a victim like you are of the "big brothers," he said.

Duran suggested that closer cooperation with Guyana demonstrates the path his country has been taking with the Caribbean. "With Guyana we are very much advanced in programmes of cooperation—electrical interconnection between Venezuela and Guyana—we are finishing now the school of medicine in Georgetown, the multiple gynasium—so we have this spirit of cooperation.

"...We don't feel we have to heal anything. We have been acting like this for many, many years with Central America and the Caribbean, Duran said.

Cuba

Delegation Meets With Iraqi Ba'th Official

FL2406210591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1943 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, a member of the command of the ruling Iraqi Ba'th Party, today made an explicit acknowledgement of Cuba's praiseworthy position during the Gulf war. During a meeting with a Communist Party of Cuba delegation that is visiting Baghdad, the Iraqi leader repeated that his nation is determined to confront the unjust economic embargo after enduring the most difficult battles with the enemy.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim noted to our country's delegation that Cuba had known enough to oppose the unjust resolutions of the UN Security Council during the Gulf war. Jasim, the Iraqi minister of information during the Gulf war, said that the attitude Cuba had shown in the Security Council was due to the principles that have always sustained the friendship between the Cuban and Iraqi peoples.

Mexican Opposition Leader Meets With Castro

PA2406232391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2005 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Havana, 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—According to today's press reports, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, leader of the Mexican opposition Democratic Revolution Party [PRD], has analyzed the relations of political institutions in Latin America with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The magazine JUVENTUD REBELDE, Cuba's Communist Youth mouthpiece, has said that during Cardenas' interview with the Cuban president he reported on the results of the Sao Paulo forum held in Mexico one week ago.

In this forum, the political parties, among them the PRD and other Latin American movements, condemned the U.S. economic blockade against Havana.

The parties also urged all the governments to call for Cuba's right to integrate, without any set conditions, into the Inter-American system, "to redress a shameful act in our Latin American history."

During his stay in this capital, Cardenas became acquainted with the development of several socioeconomic programs that are being carried out in Cuba.

During the talks with Castro, the following officials were present: Carlos Aldana, member of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Central Committee Secretariat; Carlos Lage, alternate member of the political Politburo; and Manuel Pineiro, from the PCC Central Committee.

JUVENTUD REBELDE claimed that the PRD leader's stay was "brief," however, some Cuban Government sources told NOTIMEX that Cardenas' stay in Havana lasted more than four days.

Vietnamese Commitment to Socialism Noted

FL2506011991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] The Communist Party of Vietnam today began its seventh congress with a speech by Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh, in which he confirmed that the country would build socialism. Almost 1,200 delegates listened to the top party leader stress the decision to progress towards the goal of socialism in spite of the international difficulties of the system, because it is a historic choice. Nguyen Van Linh rejected the capitalist system because, he asserted, it will never ensure national independence.

He also rejected the factions that want to establish a multiparty system. The party secretary general stressed that when the country was divided, there were 24 parties in South Vietnam, and democracy was conspicuous by its absence. It was announced in Hanoi that the seventh congress will last until 27 June. It has been reported that during the congress, changes will be made in the Central Committee.

The congress was preceded by an extensive process of discussions throughout the country, during which numerous proposals were made about the basic documents, which include the political report, the programmatic platform, and the national development strategy up to the year 2000. During today's session, Yolanda Ferrer spoke as a representative of the Communist Party of Cuba. She stressed that the fundamental thing is to prove that the socialist path is feasible at a time when the United States is euphoric because of the events in East Europe.

Chinese Supply Equipment for Hydroelectric Plant

FL2406191191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] A powerful minihydroelectric plant, which will benefit hundreds of houses and various economic efforts, will be installed soon in Guantanamo, where more than 50 of the country's 200 functioning hydroelectric facilities are located. At the moment, details are being firmed up on the construction of the small building where the plant will be located. Equipment for the plant was made in China and has already arrived in the country.

The plant will be able to generate 500 kilowatts per hour and will light hundreds of homes in nonmountainous areas. This minihydroelectric plant will utilize water from the Los Asientos Dam and will handle some of the water pumping system for the Caujeri Valley, where 50 percent of the vegetables produced in Guantanamo are grown.

The country's almost 220 hydroelectric facilities provide electricity to isolated areas and save about 8,000 tons of petroleum annually.

Castro Revisits Guira de Melena Enterprise

FL2506011791 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Ulicer Hernandez report on the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz visited the Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise in Guira de Melena, Havana Province, this weekend for the ninth time this year in order to hear about the progress of the food program. The visit by the Cuban revolution's top leader coincided with the visit being made by presidents, vice presidents, and deans of Venezuelan centers of higher education. In a pleasant and moving talk, Fidel explained to the visitors about the efforts being made by Havana Province and the country to fulfill the food program.

They were told that in the next few years, 50 percent of the arable land in Guira de Melena will be planted in bananas. On his tour of Guira de Melena in Havana Province, accompanied by the Venezuelan delegation, the commander in chief visited an area under cultivation with the microjet irrigation system. Finally, the revolution's top leader and those accompanying him talked with mobilized workers at the new type of camp called Victory Smiles, located in Guira de Melena.

Escalona Meets With Uruguay's Vazquez

FL2506004991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Dr. Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has met with Mr. Tabare Vazquez, the mayor of Montevideo, the Uruguayan capital. In a open and pleasant climate, the two leaders discussed aspects of the relations between our two countries and the current situation of Latin America. Prior to this meeting, Dr. Tabare Vazquez toured the La Guinera development zone and a workshop for the handicapped in Arroyo Naranjo Municipality.

These visits aroused great admiration in him because of the efforts our government is making to ensure a full life for all citizens. This is a very different situation from that experienced in most nations of this continent. The Uruguayan mayor, who is also a member of the Broad Front Party, arrived in Cuba on 21 June at the invitation of the Havana City government, and during his stay he received the keys to the city.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Trade Ministers Begin Three-Day Meeting

FL2406155291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 24, CANA—Just over half of the 12 members of the Caribbean common market [Caricom] have now implemented Caricom's controversial new Common External Tariff (CET), a key agenda item for a three-day regional trade ministers meeting opening here Monday. The ministers who make up the Caricom council—second only to the annual summit in the Caribbean community decision-making process—will have before them a range of requests and complaints from member states on the CET, Caricom sources here said.

Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Grenada have now put in place the unified tariff system, which aims to protect Caricom-made goods from foreign equivalents. Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and St. Kitts-Nevis are among the member states seeking amendments to the CET system. Dominica was the most recent state to implement the CET, which Caricom governments had previously agreed to have in place by January 1, 1991.

The common market has approved the suspension of a number of the CET rates so that some of the more hard-pressed Caricom members may apply, for a limited period, lower rates. The council meeting will be asked to discuss more requests for rate suspensions, Caricom sources here said.

The ministers are being asked as well to review the CET rates imposed on a number of imports, based on the findings of a recent study of the supply and demand situation with the Caribbean common market. In this connection, also on the agenda is a review of the list of items the governments had agreed would not be eligible for any exemption from or reduction of CET rates.

Caricom governments had determined that where 75 per cent or more of regional demand for an item could be met from Caricom production, this product imported from outside the common market would not qualify for exemption or a tariff reduction. The ministers are being asked to refine the list to reflect changes in the supply and demand situation in the region since the CET was initially negotiated four years ago.

Proposals before the ministers also include the current status of measures imposed by member states which are hindering intra-regional trading. At their 1989 summit the Caricom leaders had agreed that any such obstacles would be removed by next month, to facilitate the move to a Caribbean single market, the ultimate goal of the common market.

The council meeting is also being asked to review the origin rules regime which determines which regionally-made goods quality for duty-free treatment within the common market. Caricom officials here say the review—like that of the CET—is to ensure that the system is responding to the changing circumstances in the common market. It is expected that the ministers will agree to implement a permanent system of monitoring both regimes, the sources here said. The decisions coming out of this week's council meeting will go to the four-day Caricom heads of government summit, due to open here July 1.

Tariff Top Priority

FL2506012491 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 24 Jun 91

[By Peter Richards, CANA staffer]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, June 24, CANA—The 37th meeting of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common] Market Council, gets underway here on Tuesday with the problems confronting the implementation of a Caribbean Common External Tariff (CET) among the top agenda items.

Caricom leaders at their summit in Jamaica last year had agreed to the implementation of the CET, which provides a unified tax structure against third-country imports. However, to-date, only seven of the 12 common market member states have put the measure in place, with several of them applying for suspension of the tariffs as provided by the CET regulations.

"Out of the experience of implementation, some countries have asked for certain exemptions...," Byron Blake, Caricom's director of economics and industry, told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) on Monday.

"What you would have hoped is that all the countries would have implemented the arrangement, and therefore, what we would be looking at is difficulties out of the implementation," Blake added.

Sources here said that at the two-day preparatory meeting, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines had submitted a new list of items for suspension. Blake said that the requests were not new "because at whatever stage a country implements the CET, you are going to find some new difficulties are going to arise.... That is when the actual experience is going to begin to show up," he added.

The council, which is the second-highest decision-making body in the Caribbean Community, is expected to discuss a progress report on the establishment of a single-market economy within Caricom by 1993. Conference sources say that the proposals being submitted for the consideration of the council will include that of a group of high-level officials and other experts which examined the region's free-trade regime. In that report the group urges that a new target date of December 31, 1991 be given for removal of all remaining barriers to intra-regional trade. Caricom leaders had agreed at their 10th meeting in Grenada to a deadline of July 1, 1991.

Further, the council will be asked to approve of a number of measures to facilitate trade, including an amendment to national legislation to provide that import licences apply to goods qualifying for common market origin only in special circumstances or if mandated under the common market annex to the treaty.

The group is recommending too that the council convene in special session in November to review the system for payment for intra-regional trade drawn up by the central banks.

An interlocatuory group which discussed with the United States Government, on behalf of the region, the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, will have its report discussed at the meeting, Blake said.

Caricom-Latin American relations, particularly as it relates to trading relations between Venezuela and Caricom, will be another area for discussion. Caricom sources here said that while Venezuela has indicated its interest in closer bi-lateral trade with the region, to-date, officials from the two sides have not yet met to map out areas for cooperation.

Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez is due to meet with the Caribbean leaders during their July 1-4 summit.

Seven-Member OECS Marks 10th Anniversary

FL2406172991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Report by Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, June 24, CANA—The seven-member Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) has just marked its 10th anniversary (June 18), boasting a range of achievements and a determination for greater cohesion. The small-island archipelago of some 600,000 people, closely linked even before forming the West Indies Associated States (WISA) in 1968 as the British dismantled West Indian colonial control, now stands poised to deepen its collaboration, through the OECS.

"Whichever way we go, we must remember that our destiny is inextricably bound to the regional perspective and none of us can survive alone," said Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite, new chairman of the grouping.

The continued sub-regional commitment was shared by all OECS leaders at their latest summit (in Grenada June 20-21), which among other things agreed to implement a long-mooted plan to abolish passport requirements for travel among member states as of next December.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and associate member British Virgin Islands participate in the OECS. The grouping shares membership in the wider Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market], itself moving towards deeper integration.

The full OECS members have already benefitted as a sub-region from the operation their own monetary union—the OECS Central Bank is located in St. Kitts—and the services of specialised agencies in the area of

agriculture, fisheries, sports and culture, investment promotion, health, and overall economic development.

The population of the seven OECS states at mid-1989 was 583,000, with St. Lucia the most populated (148,000) and Montserrat the least (12,000). Based on most recent figures, the group continues to experience strong economic growth, outstripping other Caricom members. Over the 1986-89 period OECS growth rates ranged from 11.2 per cent in Montserrat to 4.7 per cent in Dominica and St. Lucia. The highest rate for the so-called more developed economies of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago was Jamaica's 3.8 per cent, with contraction in Trinidad and Guyana.

"We can look back on a decade of solid achievements.... It is evident that we have made significant advances in every sphere of operations," immediate past OECS Chairman Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles commented.

"In the areas of economic and technical cooperation, we have enjoyed singular success. At the political level, our region has shown a unity of purpose that has caught the attention of the rest of the world. And the strength and integrity of the EC (East Caribbean) dollar is indicative of the degree of confidence and stability that is ascribed to our economies."

The OECS in October 1983 won fleeting international attention by asking the United States to intervene in sister state Grenada after a palace coup left revolutionary Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other members of his cabinet dead. The grouping has since been focused on extending the institutional base for cooperation in economic, political and cultural development, and security, with an Antigua-based economic affairs secretariat running special agencies in pursuit of sub-regional cooperation for development.

St. Lucia-based Eastern Caribbean Drug Service seeks efficient use of health sector resources by co-ordinating procurement, management, and use of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

The agricultural diversification coordinating unit, set up in Dominica 18 months ago to develop OECS export capabilities, has arranged trade and market research missions to North America and the Dutch-speaking Caribbean, and supported attendance at trade fairs.

The St. Vincent-based fisheries unit supports common approachs on exploitation of sub-regional marine resources, and a U.S.-based Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Service (ECIPS), in Washington D.C. promotes private investment.

"These years have been fairly productive. We have seen... a raising of the profile of these Eastern Caribbean States within the region and outside," said OECS director general, St. Lucian Dr. Vaughn Lewis. "I think they are recognised now as a grouping within the regional and international environment. Secondly, I think there have been years of progress in the economic life of these islands.... There has been some substantial progress in areas relating to health, education, fisheries, legal areas, and lately, the environment and the question of agricultural diversification."

Reflecting a desire for even deeper cooperation, five members signed a 1987 accord to work in the direction of political union. St. Kitts and Nevis later opted out, but four Windward Islands—Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and Grenadines—pursued the matter and have formed a constituent assembly now laying the groundwork for a referendum on the unity question. The Windwards push towards political union, and wider proposals for a single market through free movement of goods, people, and capital demonstrate a belief that closer relations of whatever form are necessary.

"Posterity will condemn us if we fail to recognise the opportunity that is before us to move into a new world fortified by our collective strength as a single and larger unit among the nations of the world," Eugenia Charles said.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton agrees: "We must now seek a further institutional strengthening of our organisation to give it the capacity to quickly and collectively adapt and respond to the changes that are occurring in our environment."

Antigua's Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. from the outset ruled out participation in political union, but concedes that global trends have made the OECS "indispensable for the protection of our sovereignty and independence."

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds believes the islands' goal of a quality of life is being achieved, and Montserrat Chief Minister John Osborne says the OECS countries have achieved consistent and acceptable levels of growth.

Dr. Vaughn Lewis said greater cohesion requires "institutional strengthening of the organisation, so that its decisions can be implemented." The OECS will also need to relate more with Latin American countries and "will have to take a position with other Caricom countries on where it will place itself in the great changes in international trade that are taking place," he said.

Among the priorities must be efforts to "influence the decisions taken on trade and particularly aid, as Europe concerns itself with its own problems," the director general said.

Barbados

Sandiford Labels London Visit 'Successful'

FL2406161391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 24, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, home

Sunday from a one-week United Kingdom visit, has said his government is working to get a feel of foreign capital markets, especially that of Japan. Sandiford, denying he sought loans while in London, said however that government is intensifying contacts with the multilateral financing institutions and has a plan to deal with fiscal imbalance and external payments pressures.

Sandiford however repeated earlier assurances that his government is not contemplating a devaluation of the Barbados currency, fixed at two Barbados dollars [Bds] to one U.S. dollar since 1975 and regarded by some analysts to be overvalued.

"We are...stepping up our consultation with the international capital market, particularly looking at the Japanese market and seeking to have a good feel of the state of that particular market," the prime minister said.

During a visit to Tokyo in April Sandiford said his government would be approaching the Japanese capital markets for a yen-denominated bond issue as part of its debt management strategy. A Bds 65 million dollars one-off payment on a Japanese loan is included in the 280 million dollars estimated debt service faced by Barbados this year.

Government has increased taxation, ordered civil service spending cuts, and extended the life of tight credit policies in an effort to ease persistent fiscal deficits and balance of payments pressure.

"Further measures we plan to take include cutting out waste and inefficiency in the government and promoting greater efficiency in tax collection areas and other areas for the receipt of funds in the government treasury," Sandiford said.

Responding to reports in the press here that he had secured a U.S. 50 million loan in London from merchant bank Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Sandiford said: "It is totally untrue that any loan of that amount, or any other amount, has been sought by me or has been offered by anyone in Britain."

Sandiford, accompanied to Britain by his wife Angelita and Central Bank Governor Dr. Kurleigh King, said it was a "successful" visit in which he held discussions with public and private sector representatives. The topics covered included security, education, health, drug trafficking, and the economy, Sandiford said.

Venezuela To Propose Free-Trade Arrangement

FL2106005691 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 20, CANA - Venezuela's foreign minister, Armando Duran, was scheduled to arrive here Thursday evening for a 24-hour visit. He is expected to propose a free-trade arrangement with Barbados during high level talks here Friday. He told the official Venezuelan News Agency (Venpress) last week that he would propose a free trade zone with Barbados during the visit.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is expected to announce a Venezuelan offer of a wider, unilateral trade arrangement, for non-reciprocal, low-tariff entry of exports of Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] goods to Venezuela. The eventual aim is a zero tariff level.

The foreign minister's visit here will include discussions with Barbados Foreign Minister Maurice King, Friday, on the Barbados-Venezuela mechanism for consultation and exchange of information.

The Venezuelan minister is also scheduled to pay courtesy calls on Governor General Dame Nita Barrow, Acting Prime Minister Philip Greaves, and other government ministers.

He leaves Barbados Friday evening after hosting a press conference. Venezuela has been seeking closer economic relations with English-speaking [Caribbean countries].

Dominica

Charles To Present Budget to Parliament

FL2406151991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1414 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, June 24, CANA—Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Eugenia Charles is presenting her 1991/92 budget to the Dominica Parliament Monday. Expenditure of EC [East Caribbean dollars] 209.7 million dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) for 1991-92 has been proposed by government and the island will find out in the course of the budget speech what if any new taxes will be levied and what new development plans are contemplated. This year's budget is less than the fiscal package of 223.7 million dollars presented for last year by Prime Minister Charles.

The parliamentary debate on the budget could begin as early as Tuesday, giving opposition members their say on the measures. Monday's sitting is being opened with an address by President Sir Clarence Seignoret.

Dominican Republic

Foreign Ministry Rejects Haitian Protests

FL2406170691 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1609 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The Foreign Relations Secretariat has not yet received the protest made by the Haitian Government over the repatriation of Haitians, according to Dominican Foreign Relations Secretary Joaquin Ricardo Garcia. He indicated that the protest note of the Haitian Government is unwarranted [insolita] and it cannot be accepted. The functionary pointed out that every

country is free and sovereign and can accept or repatriate foreigners that enter illegally. Secretary Ricardo said that the Haitian protest ignores international law and the Foreign Relations Secretariat will not accept it.

Labor Leaders To Call Nationwide Stoppage

FL2406174791 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The leaders of the main collectives of union, peoples', and professional groups are meeting right now in an effort to find a date in the next few days that all can agree on for a general strike for better salaries and other goals.

Today's meeting is the third in the last several days. In the first two they could not agree on a common date for a general stoppage. Today's noon meeting is being held with three dates proposed for a general stoppage, two of which were released by their supporters.

The Collective of Peoples' Organizations called a strike for 3 and 4 July and their principle spokesman says that that call will not be withdrawn. At the same time, the United Confederation of Workers said that the general strike should be held starting on 10 July without a set date for its conclusion. However, Cadena de Noticias has learned that the National Union of Technicians and Professionals has an intermediary proposal.

The meeting of the professional, union, and peoples' collective leaders is being held under the close observation of police agents, who are following the principle labor leaders. It is hoped that after 1400 the results of the meeting will be known.

Sugar Mill Union Criticizes Haitian Repatriation

FL2406203191 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The United Union of the La Romana Sugar Mill has described the operation implementing the presidential decree to repatriate illegal Haitians as arbitrary.

Union spokesperson Carlos Antillan declared that the General Directorate of Immigration is the body empowered to make these kinds of decisions. He rejected the idea that a decree is being used to repatriate Haitians who are living illegally in our country.

Union spokesperson Carlos Antillan also advocated that the Chinese, Panamanians, Colombians, and other foreigners who are living illegally in our country should be repatriated along with the Haitians. Maximo Contreras, Cadena de Noticia's correspondent in La Romana, provided this information.

Grenada

Government Offers Offices for OECS in London

FL2406133491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1916 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, June 23, CANA—Grenada Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite has pledged government buildings and staff for use in establishing an Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) joint mission in London. Brathwaite said the Grenada proposal, which will help reduce arrears of contributions it owes to the seven-country sub-regional grouping, is to "contribute buildings owned in London to the OECS" and integrate some Grenada diplomatic staff into the OECS High Commission. Brathwaite said he hoped the idea of joint representation will be extended to include an OECS mission in the United States capital.

"These measures will not only attest to our support for the OECS but would enable us to reduce the cost of external representation without any loss of services provided to our people," Brathwaite said.

"We need to agree on a way of cutting the costs of overseas missions and ambassadors. This is really the time to do it because we have the experiences of our representation in Ottawa as an example," a government official told CANA, referring to an existing OECS joint representation in the Canadian capital.

Proponents of joint overseas representation also say the move will increase the capacity of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to provide high level technical representation.

Haiti

Children Repatriated From Dominican Republic

FL2006202991 Port-au-Prince Tele-Haiti in French 1230 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis, received 30 children, repatriated from the Dominican Republic yesterday morning, at the country's border. These children are part of a contingent of young and old laborers being deported by the Dominican Republic. This measure by the Balaguer government occurs in the wake of protests from the international community, condemning slavery-like conditions in the Dominican Bateyes. Following is a report by our correspondent Roosevelt Jean-Francois:

[Begin Jean-Francois recording] The situation was tense at the Haitian-Dominican border where Dominican military men were prohibiting our cameraman from taping events on the east side of the island where Haitian representatives were awaiting the children. An employee of the Haitian diplomatic mission in Santo Domingo was

preparing for their arrival. The official Haitian delegation, headed by the minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis, arrived a little before 1200. After the usual formalities with the Dominican immigration authorities, the Haitian officials were allowed to see the children in the CEDOPEX [expansion unknown] building on Dominican territory.

There are 30 children between 13 and 17 years of age, many of whom were kidnapped to work in the Dominican sugarcane fields, some by force; others were deceived, misled about the kind of work they would be doing in the Dominican Republic. Most of the children are from Jacmel, Cayes-Jacmel, Tomonde, and Maissade, sections of Haiti adjoining the Dominican border. The Dominican authorities took care of the children's dossiers. Some of them were obviously sick. [passage omitted]

The Dominican vice minister of labor, Thomas Bodilla, explained the repatriation, based on Article 55 of the Dominican Constitution, which prohibits the employment of minors and the aged. According to some observers, it was the documentary by American television network, ABC, about children working in the sugarcane fields in the Dominican Republic, which through the raising of American consciousness, sparked the protest that caused Dominican President Joaquin Ballaguer to make his decision.

The internal political situation in the Dominican Republic is tense. Two days of strikes are planned, beginning on 20 June, to uproot the 80-year-old president who is in his fifth term. The repatriation is a unilateral decision, asserts the Haitian minister of Foreign Affairs, who heard the Dominican decree on the radio. The repatriation was jointly coordinated with the Socio-Cultural Movement of Haitian Workers in the Dominican Republic. One of the leading members of this movement was also present at the frontier. [passage omitted]

Dominican newspapers regularly publish editorials on situations in the Dominican sugar industry. At the request of the Haitian minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis, a discreet meeting was held with the Dominican Vice Minister of Labor at the Haitian immigration office in Malepasse. We also learned that the Haitian authorities yesterday deported 27 Dominican citizens who were in illegal situations in Haiti. Those Dominican citizens were imprisoned in the National Penitentiary and had participated in the weekend mutiny. Mrs. Jean-Louis specified that the Dominican case was not a retaliatory decision. [passage omitted]

The children were happy while riding the Foreign Cooperation bus, which will take them to Port-au-Prince. Minister Jean-Louis told us that the children were being taken to the office of Foreign Affairs where a hot meal awaits them. The Haitan diplomatic representatives have been assured by Charge d'Affairs (Jean-Mary Jostein) that the children will be temporarily sheltered in a home not specified by the minister.

Professor Guy Alexandre, as we recall, was prohibited from staying in the Dominican Republic in 1989, having to lead the Haitian diplomatic mission in Santo Domingo [as heard], a mission that must make the integration of the two nations the first priority of the Preval government foreign policy. [end recording]

Investigation Request Sent to Dominican Republic

FL2006233491 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Haitian Government has notified the Dominican Government of its interest in working for the enhancement of relations between their two countries on the bases of mutual courtesy and respect for human rights. It finds it necessary to point out, however, that it does not understand the way the Dominican Government handled the repatriation of 29 Haitian minors. The repatriation of these young people on only one day's notice was an arbitrary unilateral measure. The manner in which this repatriation, which looked more like a deportation, was carried out is intolerable.

The Haitian Government demands to know the circumstances and conditions under which these children had arrived in the Dominican Republic. If they had entered the country on the sly, and willingly, the Dominican Government should have immediately informed the Haitian Government so that measures could have been taken in accordance with the law on immigration. If these children were abducted, investigations must be conducted to find the guilty parties and bring them to justice. A formal request has been made to the Dominican authorities to let the appropriate Haitian authorities know the results of the investigations so that legal measures can be taken.

The Haitian Government reaffirms its determination to protect all Haitian citizens and to ensure that nobody tramples their rights, at home or abroad. The Haitian Government believes the problems hampering good relations between the two countries can be resolved through a global approach. The Haitian Government is willing to negotiate all measures for repatriation of Haitians in mutual respect and in conformity with the principles of law. [passage omitted]

Balaguer Rejects Haitian Government Protest

FL2406222791 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Raids on Haitians in illegal situations in the Dominican Republic continue, following a letter from the Haitian Government protesting deportation of 30 adolescents last Tuesday. Dominican authorities continue to pursue braceros [sugarcane cutters]. Approximately 200 compatriots have already been arrested by the Dominican military, and are expected to be repatriated soon. President of the Dominican Republic, Joaquin Balaguer, formally rejected the communique from the Haitian Government which, according to him,

is not in compliance with the standards of international law. The deportation of Haitians, indicated Balaguer, will continue. He made this statement yesterday during a press conference in Monte Christi. To Balaguer, such a measure was necessary for the protection of Dominican identity. Juan Bosch, Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] leader, supports Balaguer's decision. Jean-Michel Kawas elaborates.

[Begin Kawas recording] President Joaquin Balaguer publicly rejected the note, sent him on Wednesday by the Haitian minister of Foreign Affairs, protesting the deportation of 29 [as heard] Haitian minors. During his usual press conference in Monte Christi, the Dominican president termed this correspondence inadmissable. He stated that the note did not respect the primary principles of international law by which a sovereign country has the right to accept or reject whomever it chooses in its territory. Balaguer added that the deportation of Haitians in irregular situations will continue until completed. He stated that the repatriation will occur gradually, however, in order to prevent problems for the Haitian authorities. He concluded by stating that this decisive change of policy is necessary for the protection of Dominican identity.

Responding to a question unrelated to this matter, Balaguer specified that the Dominican Republic will sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund [IMF] next week. According to several commentators, an atmosphere of sacred union within the Dominican Republic, provoked by the Haitian affair, has facilitated the adoption of the IMF measure that had been severely criticized by the opposition. Most of the prominent writers and political leaders, including PLD leader Juan Bosch, approved the plan announced by Balaguer for the deportation of illegal Haitians.

Voices are raised, however, to warn against the possibility of accidents during the Army-organized raids. Some, such as lawyer Ramon Antonio Veraz, highlight the responsibility of the Dominican state, which remains the principal employer of illegal Haitians, not only in the cane fields, but in the building industry as well. [end recording]

The head of Haitian diplomacy, Mrs. Denise Fabien Jean-Louis, leaves Port-au-Prince tonight to meet with her Dominican counterpart in Santo Domingo regarding the repatriation of Haitians.

Balaguer Decree Denounced as 'Apartheid'

FL2406230691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Report by Leogane correspondent Ronald Saint-Surin—recorded]

[Excerpts] Gerard Evans Beaubrun, deputy of Leogane, denounced the Aristide-Preval government's signing of agreements with foreign countries without the approval of the Legislative Chamber. The deputy informed us in an interview that, as the people's representative bound to defend the Constitution, he will personally present a number of issues to the Chamber for discussion because Articles 98.3 and 139 of the country's Constitution clearly state: Any government agreement with foreign countries must be submitted to the Chamber for approval.

According to Deputy Beaubrun, of 10 contracts signed by the government, only one, an agreement for $44 million with the Inter-American Development Bank, was presented to the Chamber of Deputies for approval. The deputy advised us that the government signed a flour contract with the United States, with which he himself does not agree. He explains that the Chamber does not wish to receive flour; they prefer wheat. [passage omitted]

The Leogane deputy also discussed the matter of braceros [sugarcane cutters] in the Dominican Republic. He called the decree of the Balaguer government to deport all Haitians under 16 years of age and over 60 an illegal decree, an apartheid decree. He said the government must hire lawyers to conduct the case of these people in the Dominican Republic the way Father Gerard Jean-Juste is doing in the United States. [passage omitted]

Dominican Government Deports Another 108 Haitians

FL2406233691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The Dominican Government repatriated another 108 Haitians on 22 June, most of whom are considered illegal immigrants by the government. Among them were three adults, including one invalid, and one child [as heard]. They were repatriated under the decree issued by Joaquin Balaguer on 13 June. This is the second expulsion within four days. A similar deportation will occur on 25 June.

University professor Henrique de Leon, an official of a high delegation of Dominican civilians here since last Thursday, apologized for the unilateral repatriation measures adopted by President Balaguer. Such behavior, he said, is not in keeping with the hospitable nature of the Dominican people. It is through dialogue and cooperation that the problems between the two countries will be resolved, according to De Leon.

Military-Peasant Conflict Reported in L'Estere

FL2106235391 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Report by Petite-Riviere de l'Artibonite correspondent Milceus Gaspard—recorded]

[Text] Approximately 15 heavily armed military men from Gonaives were dispatched to L'Estere at 1400 on 17 June to carry out a search for arms after reports of day-long shooting in the area. According to the L'Estere deputy judge, they searched houses on Habitation Pat Chwal, and arrested seven peasants accused by the

people of Hatte Chevreau of harvesting what they had not planted. There has been a lawsuit for 957 acres of land pending for several years on this matter.

Meanwhile, about 150 peasants from Hatte Chevreau went to Habitation Pat Chwal around 1600 with sticks and machetes. Military men began shooting. According to a statement signed by Alexis Theodore and deposited at the Clerk's Office of the L'Estere Court, Mrs. Wesner Pierre's home was riddled with bullets; housewares were broken in 11 houses, which were ransacked while military men stood by watching; eight pigs and 30 goats have disappeared; and several hundred dollars have been stolen.

Twenty-four hours later, several military men from Gonaives left the barracks around 1600 to search for rumored weapons in the area. One person was killed by the bullets of armed civilians. Another, Irek Estinvil, is hospitalized at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital from a military bullet in the back.

Haitian-French Cooperation Meetings Continue

FL2106183791 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpts] This is the second day of meetings for the Haitian-French Commission at the Christopher Hotel. On today's agenda is the presentation of programs for the health, social affairs, economy, and finance sectors. [passage omitted] Commercial and cultural questions are slated to be addressed.

At the opening of this joint session of Haitian-French cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Marie-Denise Fabien Jean-Louis recalled the longstanding friendship between Haiti and France. The head of Haitian diplomacy wants France to continue to support the willingness for change as expressed by the Aristide-Preval government and in conformity with the population's wishes. The minister of foreign affairs also positively welcomed the presence of Caribbean people in the French delegation. The minister described French-Haitian cooperation as important. She thinks that France will help Haiti to write its history.

French Minister of Cooperation Mrs. Edwige Avice stated that the time had come to set the framework for the political action already taken together and to define the concrete programs that form the substance of this cooperation. Mrs. Avice recalled the technical contacts already made between French and Haitian officials. She also mentioned the important role that Haiti must play in regional cooperation with the Caribbean. Minister Edwige Avice stated that France wants to make its contribution in the building of Haitian democracy. Minister of Planning Renaud Bernardin, the head of the Haitian delegation at this joint session, evaluated the cooperation between the two countries during the past years. Renaud Bernardin pointed out that Haiti needed international solidarity, especially from the French people, in order to face its problems.

France Increases Aid, Cancels Debt

FL2206011191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] French Minister of Cooperation and Development Mrs. Edwige Avice announced on 20 June a significant increase of 250 million francs this year in aid to Haiti. Mrs. Avice, speaking at a news conference in the diplomatic lounge of the Mais Gate Airport, as she was preparing to leave Haiti, pointed out that this assistance represents France's support of democracy in Haiti. During her visit, the minister visited with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Prime Minister Rene Preval, and several other members of the government. She was accompanied by a delegation, which included General Jean Varet, chief of the military cooperation mission of the Ministry of Cooperation and Development.

In addition to easing Haiti's balance of payments with 40 million francs, France also offers to rebuild the Haitian-French Friendship Road linking Port-au-Prince and Jacmel; to computerize the Haitian Telephone Company; to provide the northwest, especially the areas where there are no roads at all, with prefabricated bridges; to assist with a program of vaccination and with efforts against AIDS. [passage omitted]

Mrs. Avice also announced that France will continue with their program of educational assistance for adult literacy per President Aristide's request; a number of security training programs for military men; technical support for the Planning Ministry; creation of cooperatives; and studies to set up a rural credit organization.

The minister, citing the cancellation of Haiti's debt to France of 400 million francs, took the opportunity to point out that there is a cooperation between France and the Caribbean that will continue, and grow closer, in the fields of breeding, cottage industries, commerce, tourism, and university education.

Mrs. Avice was in Haiti to attend the French-Haitian Cooperation Commission meeting.

Former Candidate Suffers Heart Failure

FL2406183591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Last weekend, prisoners were transferred to Petionville in the wake of an uprising at the National Penitentiary. Mr. Lesly Maximillien, former presidential candidate who was arrested by the authorities for taking part in a plot against state security is currently hospitalized, following heart failure caused by a hunger strike. The prisoner, who was transferred from his cell at the National Penitentiary to the Petionville Barracks, had been on a hunger strike for two days as a sign of protest.

We note that Lesly Maximillien as well as other prisoners, including Antony Virginie Saint-Pierre and Isidor Ponyon, were considered by the prime minister as being

the leaders of the recent uprising at the National Penitentiary. On 16 June, they were transferred to the prison in Petionville.

Jamaica

Nation Divided Over Change to Republican Status

FL2406121591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1942 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 22, CANA—Forty eight per cent of Jamaicans in a poll by political scientist Carl Stone said they favour a change from the monarchy to republican status for the island. According to the results of the poll published here, 42 per cent of the respondents opposed a change to republican status, and 10 per cent said they were "unsure." The poll covered 1,200 persons across Jamaica.

The island has been an independent member within the Commonwealth since 1962, with the queen's representative (governor general) as head of state. Professor Stone said the poll, conducted in May, confirmed a sharp division in national opinion on a government proposal to adopt republican status and remove the British monarch as the symbol of sovereignty here. A 1987 Stone poll showed 49 per cent favoured republican status, with 46 per cent opposed.

In May the Jamaica Government announced it was embarking on a major review of the Constitution, covering the repatriation of national symbols.

Company Resumes Bauxite Shipments to USSR

FL2406165091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 24, CANA—Jamaica this month resumed shipments of bauxite to the Soviet Union under a U.S. 125 million dollar contract, the Bauxite Aluminium Trading Company, (BATCO) confirmed. Audley Roberts, BATCO's managing director told CANA the decision to resume followed several rounds of negotiations between BATCO and Soviet officials. He said one shipment had already left for Moscow and two others should leave by month-end.

Jamaica, he said, would be shipping 100,000 tonnes of bauxite a month to the Soviets for the rest of the year under a five-year contract signed last October. Under the agreement Jamaica is to supply one million tonnes of bauxite a year to the USSR.

Jamaica suspended bauxite shipments earlier this year because of difficult ties with shipping schedules and payment arrangements. At that time only 30,000 tonnes of bauxite had been supplied. Under the terms of the contract, Jamaica was to supply 250,000 tonnes in the first quarter of the year. Jamaica uses 50 percent of the payment to buy mainly farm tractors and Lada motor cars from the Soviet Union.

Government Lauds RSA Anti-Apartheid Measures

FL2506013491 Bridgetown CANA in English 2135 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, June 24, CANA—The Jamaican Government has welcomed the decision by South Africa's [RSA] Parliament to repeal a major apartheid law, the Population Registration Act of 1950, and has urged the government to swiftly remove the remaining obstacles to democracy.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator David Coore, in a statement, said the development represented a victory for all non-white South Africans who were largely denied a sense of human dignity on the basis of racial classification.

He called the repeal of the act another "significant development in demolishing the pillars of apartheid." Jamaica, he said, regarded the move as a "clear signal" of acknowledgement by the white minority government of the need to create and promote the development of a non-racial society in South Africa.

"This step will hopefully be followed by the removal of the remaining obstacles to the establishment of a democratic system of free and plural political participation in South Africa," Senator Coore said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Parliament Approves Elections Commission Report

FL2406131291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1629 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, June 23, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Parliament has approved an elections and boundaries commission report, clearing the way for Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to announce the date of the next general elections. With a decrease in the number of eligible voters by more than 100,000 compared to the 1986 list of about 861,000, the commission recommended that certain constituencies which fell below the permissible minimum level of voters, should be enlarged and their boundaries adjusted. The contest for 36 seats in the Parliament of the twin-island State is due no later than March next year.

In laying the report in the House of Representatives on Friday, leader of government business, Dr. Bhoe Tewarie said the commission, which is a creature of the Constitution, was an independent body, insulated from political influence and control. Tewarie, who's also industry minister said the commission completed its tasks, "against the background of decreases in the electorate, shifts of population, variations in averages, and the need to achieve equality in all the constituencies."

Opposition leader Basdeo Panday made queries about the missing voters adding that the list should be published for persons to come forward and register with the commission.

Former Minister Quits Ruling NAR Party

FL2406114791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1908 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, June 22, CANA—Former junior minister Eden Shand resigned Friday from Trinidad and Tobago's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), claiming a lack of confidence in prime minister and party leader, A.N.R Robinson. Shand cut up his party card with a pair of scissors before the House of Representatives, saying he is disgusted with the party and believes the party leader is a "liability" which must be shed if the party wants another term of office.

The St. Ann's West representative, who stepped down as junior external affairs minister last December and called for Robinson's resignation, said he will remain in active politics but will support no party. Shand told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY that there is much discontent in the NAR over the leadership but other members preferred to remain quiet over the issue.

"I interpret that as endorsement for the political leader and I respect people's endorsement....whomever they choose, and I hope they respect my withdrawal of my endorsement...." Shand said.

"Being in a party where I was apparently seriously outnumbered, then the natural thing for me to do was to leave the party and leave them with their leader, whose leadership I do not subscribe," he added.

Before appointing Shand to the Foreign Ministry, Robinson removed the outspoken politician from the post of parliamentary secretary in the Food Production Ministry after controverial comments on a squatting issue.

Shand said that since his resignation from government he had been systematically marginalised as a member of Parliament, and assistance for his constituency was ignored. Shand said that contrary to party supporters' claims that he is a troublemaker: "When I made my call for the prime minister's resignation, it was for the sake of the party, not for my sake. So I don't wish the party ill and I don't know how my resignation will affect the party in the forthcoming elections.

"All I can say, is that I do not intend to wage a campaign against them nor do I intend to wage any campaign for any other party," Shand told CANA. He said he will be an independent observer, and has not resigned from active politics.

Cuban News Agency Director Requests Asylum

PA2506011691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0046 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Roberto Casin, director of the PRENSA LATINA Cuban news agency in Mexico, has reportedly requested political asylum from the Mexican Government, it was reported here today.

Married to a Cuban with whom he has a daughter in Cuba, Casin has been living in Mexico City for the last two years since he arrived to assume the post of PRENSA LATINA director.

According to Cuban Embassy sources, Mexico reportedly denied his petition considering that Casin is neither a victim of political persecution nor does the Cuban Government have any case against him.

They added that Casin's request for asylum was reportedly planned several months ago and should have been brought up prior to the Ibero-American presidential summit scheduled for July in Guadalajara.

Francisco Forteza arrived in Mexico City on 21 June to replace Casin as PRENSA LATINA director.

Ruled 'Legal Resident'

PA2506014091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0104 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Roberto Casin, the former director of the Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA who resigned from his post, is a legal resident of the country and his status is not that of a political refugee, the local authorities reported here today.

They added that Casin has been residing in Mexico for three years and has an FM-3 immigration form. The former director of PRENSA LATINA is not a political refugee, the authorities reiterated.

Free Trade Agreement Not To Include Oil

PA2106172791 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche has reiterated that neither national sovereignty nor oil will be included in a possible free trade agreement.

Academic, business, and labor representatives proposed to Serra Puche that Mexico refrain from making pledges during the negotiation of the possible trilateral treaty until all sectors have been consulted. The proposal was made during a working meeting between the federal official and members of the advisory council of the treaty negotiating committee.

The basic principles of Mexico's position, which are national sovereignty and the exclusion of oil from the negotiations, were reaffirmed at the meeting. It was also announced that 17 working groups that are to examine the six topics included in the negotiations process will be formed within one week. These topics are: access to markets, trade rules, services, investments, intellectual property, and resolution of controversies.

Juan Gallardo, the business representative in the advisory council, said that there are no weak points in the Mexican economy. What is needed, he said, is the time to transform and to become competitive. Labor representative Rafael de Jesus Lozano said that the possible trilateral treaty has a very clear goal: to make Mexico competitive and to improve Mexican society's standard of living.

Also present were Jorge Bustamante and Mario Ojeda of the academic sector.

El Salvador

Government, Rebels Reach 'Confidential' Agreement

PA2506041591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0336 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Jun (AFP)—UN mediator and representative Alvaro De Soto announced on 24 June that during the negotiations held last week in Mexico the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas reached "confidential" agreements that cannot be disclosed yet.

"We have, in fact, made progress in this last round, but unfortunately I cannot say in what because it is confidential," De Soto insisted to the press following a meeting he held with President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador.

The UN official, who will leave today for Mexico to meet with leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said that at the negotiating table, "they are giving priority to the issues of the Armed Forces and the cease-fire, two topics that we have to negotiate together."

When commenting on the slow progress in the dialogue process that began a year ago with UN mediation, De Soto said that "it is difficult and perfectly explainable that the government does not want to accept reforms in the Armed Forces, unless it goes along with a cease-fire." Also, it is understandable that the FMLN "does not want to accept a cease-fire unless the Armed Forces are reformed (...) [as received] until everything is solved, I do not believe we can announce agreements," he commented.

With regard to how long it will take to sign a cease-fire in El Salvador, where the armed conflict has been going on for 11 years, the UN representative said he does not want to be forecasting the time, but this "is a negotiation with very good possibilities of success."

"Many of the components of what could become a cease-fire agreement have already been drafted, and the technical problems are being solved," De Soto insisted.

Archbishop Notes Violence, Peace Negotiations

PA2406160291 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Homily by San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas at the Sacred Heart Basilica in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] (?We have) good and bad news. The news reaching us from Queretaro [where Salvadoran government and guerrillas were holding peace talks] is optimistic even though the progress made has not been disclosed. That is a good sign that creates hope, something the country urgently needs after having experienced one of the most violent weeks in recent months.

Regarding the war, an Army officer was assassinated and many casualties were reported in battles in Chalatenango Department. At least 10 persons died during the guerrilla attack on the Mariona Prison. An interesting study by the Legal Assistance Office indicates that in accordance with international law, prisons cannot be military targets because the lives of the civilians held there are endangered. The law establishes that the national prison administration will carefully select employees because the good management of the prisons will depend on the integrity, humaneness, and professional ability of these people. According to this, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the Mariona guards, and the military personnel have violated international humanitarian law. Irregularities have also been detected in the way that the investigations of this unfortunate incident have been conducted.

This week I attended the funeral of a dearly beloved priest of the San Miguel diocese, Msgr. Ventura Cruz, an ardent supporter of the seminary. We express our condolences to Msgr. Jose Eduardo Alvarez, the San Miguel clergy, and Msgr. Ventura Cruz' family. Showing that the priesthood of Christ is eternal, young Hector Arturo Artola, of the [word indistinct] congregation, was ordained as a priest yesterday. Our heartfelt congratulations to him.

However, I cannot but express my displeasure over the occupation of churches, an action that has again become the practice of some organizations. Such actions are no longer justified. Therefore, I ask that such occupations immediately cease, otherwise I will have to apply the canon law and its relevant penalties. [passage omitted]

Honduras

ONUCA Headquarters in Tegucigalpa Attacked

PA2406131491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0518 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The headquarters of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in this capital was attacked with bazookas by unidentified persons on 23 June. No victims have been reported.

"I have no idea of who could have carried out the attack; we did not expect this to happen here," ONUCA General Commander Victor Suanzes said during a brief visit to the facilities.

Gen. Suanzes arrived at the ONUCA headquarters shortly after the attack, which occurred at 2100, or 0300 GMT.

According to a witness, the attackers were two individuals riding a motorcycle.

ONUCA was installed in Central America in December 1989 to supervise the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras and to verify that the territory of one country was not used for attacks on another.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

FPM Claims Responsibility

PA2406213291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2027 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The press reported today that a guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for the attack that took place last night against the offices of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in this city.

The Chief of the Morazanista Patriotic Front [FPM], Roger Gonzalez, said in a communique that "our action is a strong protest because UN policy in the Third World is to yield to the policies of hegemony of gringo imperialism."

The rebel group also said that the UN peace forces for Central America (ONUCA) [as received] is a structure that "serves as a facade for the CIA's covert actions in this region."

The text also states that "the United Nations has passed from being an organization that defends peace and become an organization that advocates violence on a worldwide scale."

ONUCA Commander General Victor Suanzes met this morning with Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua to convey his concern over the attack.

Nicaragua

Government, RN, FSLN Support Disarmament

PA2506033391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0012 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Managua, 25 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Nicaraguan Government, the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], and former contras will sign a joint declaration tomorrow calling for the disarmament of the civilian population, the Security Commission announced today in Managua. Nicaragua's chief political forces that met as the Security Commission agreed on the need to implement the plan to disarm civilians and to struggle for the ownership of land and property through dialogue.

The commission, made up of delegates of the Violeta Chamorro government, the FSLN, and leaders of the former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], reviewed the agreements that led to the demobilization of 20,000 combatants one year ago.

The commission summoned former President Daniel Ortega to tell him about the difficult situation Nicaraguan peasants are experiencing, which has prompted them to rearm themselves over the past weeks.

"There is consensus between the RN and the FSLN to work jointly towards achieving a total disarmament that would bring security," Ortega remarked at the end of the meeting.

The top FSLN leader demanded that the government guarantee the properties of thousands of peasants who own small houses and lots, and respect the land handed over under the terms of the agrarian reform during the Sandinist regime.

Ortega described the recontra phenomenon as a social problem with political overtones which, he felt, stems from hunger, lack of agricultural credit, and landlessness.

Labor Minister Francisco Rosales and Deputy Presidency Minister Antonio Ibarra attended the meeting on behalf of the government.

Contra leader Henry Zelaya, "Doctor Henry," described the meeting as a "historic moment," and demanded that the FSLN and former RN members, who continue bearing arms, hand over their rifles "because we cannot impose our views by force or armed means."

In the joint declaration, each sector will accept the responsibility incumbent upon it to reach the objective of social security in Nicaragua's rural areas.

"The RN and FSLN efforts will be the key factor in implementing whatever we decide," Ortega noted, and warned what is needed is not a declaration but common agreements that lead to national consensus.

Report on FSLN Departmental Congresses

PA2406165691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jun 91 pp 1,5

[Report by Alfonso Malespin]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has been holding congresses in different departments of the country in preparation for the first national congress, which will take place in July. These congresses are taking place with a spirit of unity in order to confront the serious problems affecting the country.

Commander Jaime Wheelock, who opened the congress held in Chinandega Department, said that the government and the FSLN are seeking a solution to the problem of former contras rearming and looking to deactivate the plans of some sectors of the National Opposition Union at the National Assembly.

Other leaders of the FSLN National Directorate are presiding over the different FSLN departmental congresses. Commander Daniel Ortega is in Leon, Commander Bayardo Arce is in Matagalpa, Commander Henry Ruiz is in Masaya, and Commander Victor Tirado is in Chontales.

These congresses, along with the one in Rivas Department, which is presided over by Commander Luis Carrion, are scheduled to end on 23 June.

The FSLN National Directorate has yet to present its main report, even though two drafts exist, because of the number of "practical tasks" that Sandinist leaders have had to do throughout this period, said Commander Henry Ruiz, when inaugurating the Masaya Department Congress.

Ruiz criticized the National Directorate on this point, but said that members opted for this situation rather than to present a document that was not the result of a consensus. "We speak as a group," he said.

The delegates to the first congress will learn about the document called "Synthesis of Sandinist Actions between 19 July 1979 and 26 February 1990" in July, Ruiz announced.

Commander Henry Ruiz, candidate for the post of FSLN treasurer, addressed the 232 delegates who began the debates last night on the proposals for party principles, program, and statutes, saying that the National Directorate has decided that its membership should be increased, but in a "moderate and reasonable" way, according to the new FSLN.

He also reported that former President Daniel Ortega will become the second secretary general in the FSLN, if the national congress approves it. Commander Carlos Fonseca Amador has been the only secretary general until now.

Commander Ruiz reminded the delegates about their historical responsibility as "founders of the new FSLN," adding that the organization must be democratic in a deliberative and participative way. He emphasized the unique circumstances surrounding the first Sandinist congress.

"It will occur even though we have lost power and are undertaking a tremendous effort to rise up and continue toward the future," to recover the consensus that the party lost—particularly among women, young people, and peasants.

Mayor Aleman Opposes Decree on Rebuilding City

PA2506035391 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jun 91 p 10

[Text] Managua—Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman requested over the weekend that the decree issued by President Violeta Chamorro on the reconstruction of the old downtown of the capital—which was destroyed by the 23 December 1972, earthquake—be repealed.

Mayor Aleman stated that implementation of this project "is the prerogative of the municipality," and he warned that Chamorro's decision "is an act of meddling in the affairs of the Mayor's Office."

On 21 June, President Chamorro issued a decree creating the Commission of the Managua Basin, which will be tasked with planning the reconstruction of the new capital.

According to the presidential project, the coast of Lake Managua—where all the organic waste from the Managua residents is dumped—will reportedly be turned into a "national park of liberty."

President Chamorro said that "it is the government's prerogative to put the house in order, as well as implement this national project to organize the city. It is meant to protect the ecology and economy of the country, thus permitting them to mutually develop."

The commission tasked with rebuilding Managua is formed by delegates of Irena [Institute of Natural Resources], the Construction and Transportation Ministry, and the National Commission of the Environment and Territorial Ordering [Comision Nacional del Ambiente y Ordenamiento Territorial].

Panama

Later Departure of U.S. Troops To Be Requested

PA2506022791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0136 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Panama City, 24 Jun—This week, Foreign Minister Julio Linares will request that the U.S. Government delay the departure of its troops stationed in the Panama Canal area.

Linares said that he will meet within the next few days with U.S. Ambassador to Panama Deane Hinton to request Washington not advance the departure date of its military bases in that country.

The Bush administration announced several days ago it will advance the departure date of its troops from Panama, although the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977 established 31 December 1999 as the last date for the departure of the marines [as received].

There are nine military bases in Panama with 12,000 soldiers who must leave by 31 December 1991 [as received], according to the Carter-Torrijos Treaties.

Linares explained that Panama is confronted by a serious unemployment situation, and the withdrawal of the U.S. bases will leave approximately 6,000 Panamanians, who work on the military bases, without jobs.

Official statistics disclose that approximately 18 percent of Panama's 2.4 million citizens are unemployed, and 50 percent of the population lives in poverty.

The foreign minister said that "unfortunately, the situation is difficult, and it will become even worse if there are more unemployed persons as a result of the withdrawal of the bases, inasmuch as Panama does not have the capacity to employ them."

However, he assured that "under no circumstances will Panama renegotiate the presence of the U.S. bases beyond the year 2000, not even for 6,000 jobs."

Poll Reports Increase in Government Corruption

PA2406232191 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Jun 91 p 1

[Article by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] Panamanians have perceived an increase in corruption in the government 17 months after President Guillermo Endara began his term.

In fact, a poll conducted by the "Dichter and Neira" research firm has reported that 68.7 percent of Panamanians feel that there is an unacceptable degree of corruption in the government while 17.8 percent disagree. The truth is that the percentage of people who agree with this continues to increase, because a poll conducted in February registered 62.30 percent.

The poll was conducted between 29 May and 2 June in the most important cities of the country, and 982 Panamanians of both sexes were polled. In fact, 71.1 percent of the men believe that an unacceptable degree of corruption prevails while 66.7 percent of the women feel the same.

It is curious that the percentages of people who agree that there is a high degree of corruption in the government are similar, both in the capital (68.9 percent) and the countryside (68.7 percent). This shows that there is a relatively uniform stand throughout the country.

Analyzing the education levels of the people polled, "Dichter and Neira" found that 64.5 percent corresponds to the less educated and 71.1 percent corresponds to those who have a higher degree of education. In other words, there is quite a similar degree of understanding on this issue by both the most and the least educated.

According to observers, the report that the government authorized excessive imports of corn, onion, milk, beans, and other products—without taking into consideration the agrarian and livestock producers, who are the weakest links in the economy—shows that the eagerness to reap profits, a factor which leads to corruption, has affected many officials.

The information shows that this is endorsed by 70.3 percent of the Panamanians who were included in the poll because they believe that corruption has also reached the levels of those who authorize the releasing of bank accounts and the granting of bail to members of the former regime. The figure was 68 percent in February.

The previous poll shows that the official who experienced this drop in popularity was the district attorney, because his work is closely linked with the control of frozen accounts and the handling of bail for military and civilian members of the former regime.

It is also appropriate to recall the incidents triggered by Law 3 of 1991, which offered the benefit of a house arrest to those who were indicted for crimes that were punishable with less than two years in prison—and this has been successfully applied to members of the former regime.

An incident which caught the whole nation's attention was the one in which the First Penal Judge granted this benefit to former Attorney General Carlos A. Villalaz, creating doubts about the honesty of the government's actions and resulting in the judge's immediate dismissal.

Justice's House Attacked With Molotov Cocktail

PA2506135891 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Wilfredo Saez' residence was attacked last night, according to reports gathered by this radio station. At approximately 2200 last night a Molotov cocktail exploded at the justice's residence—located in the Villa de las Fuentes No. 2—without causing damage.

According to the information gathered by KW Continente, the PTJ [Technical Judicial Police] reported that the device had crashed against the wall outside the house leaving only a mark.

KW Continente was also able to learn that Justice Saez' son was inside the house, cleaning his handgun, when the attack occurred. The handgun went off when the explosion occurred and the bullet grazed the young man's forehead.

There are no reports about casualties and it is reported that Justice Saez is perfectly well. There is no information about the reasons for the attack. The community has recently been shaken by a series of attacks on ministers' and public officials' residences. Some of the attacks are attributed to destabilizing sectors or members of the defunct Panamanian Defense Forces.

Argentina

Di Tella on U.S.-EC Agricultural Talks

PY2406231891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1637 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jun (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella expressed pessimism today over a possible agreement between the United States and the EC on the issue of agricultural subsidies. He stated, however, that the Cairns Group will meet in Brazil, "from where we will exert the most pressure."

The foreign minister stated that if an agreement on agriculture is not reached within the framework of the GATT Uruguay Round, Argentina will not get a "satisfactory solution" to the problems caused by the subsidies implemented by the EC and the United States.

He said that in the United States "there are very strong pressures to change that policy, which is very bad for the Americans themselves," but that the same situation does not exist in Europe. For this reason it would be "very difficult" to expect a short-term solution.

In a telephone conversation with Radio America, Di Tella added that "now that the obstacle presented by the Condor project is out of the way, we have new possibilities for international cooperation with NASA" in aerospace matters, as well as with "its European equivalent, called the European Space Agency, and the French Space Agency."

He added: "Now we can think about resuming the level of space research we had previously achieved, which during the last decade was sidetracked by another project which turned up to be very harmful for the country."

He added that the U.S. perception of our economic policy development "is becoming more favorable" and that "the bonus incident is another indication that there has been a certain level of political discussions," although the result was "unsatisfactory."

Brazil To Purchase 500,000 Metric Tons of Wheat

PY2406031691 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Jun 91 p 17

[Excerpts] Dorothea Werneck, Brazilian Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira's key assistant, has ordered the National Supply Commission to purchase 500,000 metric tons of wheat in Buenos Aires. This is to compensate Argentine associates, who were annoyed at the purchase of nearly 400,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat at a very low price.

Alieto Guadagni, under secretary of production for defense in charge of technical planning, said yesterday that members of the National Supply Commission and the National Grain Board will meet in Buenos Aires next week to fix the prices and shipment dates. [passage omitted]

Guadagni praised the attitude of Brazil and compared it with that of the United States. He said: "On one hand we have the United States, which interfered in a normal market with a subsidized offer, and on the other hand we have the frank, cordial, and competitive attitude of the Brazilian Government which will respect its commitments."

CNEA Chief Details Financial 'Disorder'

PY2406210691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jun 91 p 7

[By Roberto M. Herrscher]

[Text] "What the government doesn't seem to understand," National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) head Manuel Mondino recently told a group of journalists, "is that there is no possibility of economic development without energy."

Mondino was angry. "The economy ministry does not take this issue seriously, but one day they will find out that if they have no guarantee of electricity to make their factories work, investors will simply refuse to come to Argentina," he said.

The Organization of American States has recently granted Mondino a prize for "Multinational Metallurgy Project" for his work promoting Latin American integration activities in that field, and the Latin American group at the Governors' Board of the International Atomic Energy Organization has recently decided to present his name to preside the Board for the year starting this September, but the president of CNEA has no time to feel honoured.

"We cannot pay our creditors because Agua y Energia [Water and Energy] public water works and Segba [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] state energy company owe us 47 million US dollars," Mondino says. "We have debts with the Canadians, Germans and Swiss, and every day we owe more because of the interests."

Mondino stressed that the project for a third atomic reactor—the half-finished Atucha II, which would join Atucha I in Buenos Aires and Embalse in Cordoba—is currently at a standstill waiting for the necessary funds. "The Germans have signed an agreement to pay for half of everything, but we must first present the invoice of what we have paid, and currently we cannot pay anything." If the government does not pay, the 1994 deadline will not be met.

Argentina will have to decide if atomic energy is what it needs and if it is ready to pay the cost of building nuclear plants, live with the danger of accidents and the uncertain future of nuclear waste. But the current situation is that although only 7.8 percent of the installed energy capacity is nuclear, 19.5 percent of the electricity used in May came from the two reactors. That means that whatever we think of it, CNEA is today making the country work and it is not getting paid for it.

"How much longer can we go on with this state of disorder?," Mondino asks. "Apart from electric power, we must maintain the level of scientific and technical excellence in which any high-tech institution is based."

As an example of this, CNEA officials expressed their satisfaction that today President Carlos Menem will preside over the ceremony in which the new atomic engineers and physicists will receive their diploma at the Balseiro Institute in Bariloche. The President will also visit the RA-6 reactor and the Low Temperature Laboratory.

Another example is nuclear medicine, which we commented on these page two weeks ago. CNEA and the Mendoza government opened a state-of-the-art nuclear medicine school in the capital of that province early this month. The national government did not send a cent for that project, one of the most modern in its type in the world and the first such school in Latin America.

What will happen when the reactors stop for maintenance? Will there be funds for that work which will last for three or four weeks? Will the rest of the national interconnected network provide enough electricity to cover the needs of the country? What would happen if there is an accident and the reactors have to stop for a longer period?

"It's a political decision," Silvio Rapoport, editor of the magazine Argentina Nuclear, said during our conversation with Mondino. While a thorough re-evaluation of Argentina's energy policy is still on the waiting list, we can at least expect those within the state who use electricity to pay for it as any citizen pays his or her bills. Closing one's eyes to reality does not produce darkness, but in this case it can be the first step towards a dark future.

CNEA Chief To Chair Nuclear Agency in Sep

PY2506022491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2047 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 12 Jun (TELAM)—Manuel Mondino, president of the National Commission for Atomic Energy [CNEA], has announced that he will chair the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in September 1991.

Bolivia

Army Commander Supports Gas Deal With Chile

PY2506024091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1944 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] La Paz, 23 Jun (EFE)—General Jorge Moreira, Bolivian Armed Forces commander in chief, said today that "the government took a practical and commercially advantageous step for the country's future" with the sale of gas to Chile, despite the fact that the two nations do not maintain bilateral diplomatic relations.

"We should know how to take advantage of some situations, because if we do not negotiate with other nations, others may do so," he told the local Fides News Agency in reference to an energy integration agreement signed by the two nations on 21 June.

Moreira reiterated that the executive branch and the Armed Forces "are aware that the demand for an outlet to the sea remains the nation's essential objective."

Regarding the criticism that several political and social sectors have made of the agreement—the first to be signed by ministers of both countries since 1978—he said that the possible reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Chile is a different issue from that of commercial relations.

The two nations broke diplomatic relations in 1978 when talks aimed at bringing an end to a border conflict failed. The border dispute has been pending since the war that the two countries fought against each other in 1879, when Bolivia lost its Pacific coast.

Government To Privatize 60 Public Companies

PY2306031491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 7

[Excerpt] The government has put 60 public companies up for privatization within the process of its neoliberal policy. Twelve other companies will sign "production contracts" with the state because of their strategic nature within the national economy. The two dispositions are contained in Supreme Decree 22836, which was released by the Presidency yesterday.

The privatization process for public companies will cover a phase of reorganization which will last up to two years. The companies will then be under the production contracts or privatized through dissolution and liquidation actions. The transfer of ownership of the public companies can be either total or partial. The dispositions are backed by an economic policy that seeks the rational participation of the state in the productive sector of the economy and greater intervention by private capital. The measure also considers that a properly regulated market economy and private system of production should help economic growth and lead to job creation.

In the production contracts, the government will establish the economic-financial and production goals the public companies must achieve in a specified period. These contracts will serve to deregulate the markets in which the public companies operate to make free competition possible. It will also allow greater operational autonomy in exchange for goal commitments which will necessarily result in greater production.

The list of companies which will sign the contracts are: YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits], Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia], ENDE [National Electricity Enterprise], Enfe [National Railway Enterprise], Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], AADAA [Autonomous Association of Customs Warehouses], AASANA [Auxiliary Air Navigation Services

Administration], Ecobol [expansion unknown], EMV [expansion unknown], Samapa [Municipal Drinking Water and Sewer Service], and Cofadena [Armed Forces National Development Corporation].

The privatization plan was defined by the decree as "the sale or transfer through any means of a company owned totally or partially by the state to an individual or a group of individuals not representing the state or being a part of it." The exceptions are the mineral and oil deposits.

The privatization seeks to achieve the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy; the transfer to the private sector of economic activity; the reduction of the fiscal deficit; the democratization of the property of the means of production; the promotion of investments; the attraction of financial, technological, and management resources; and the development of the capital and stock markets.

The decree also created a "Assessment Commission for Public Companies" [Comision de Evaluacion de la Empresa Publica] to study the offers for total or partial privatization of the companies. The decree also established that the companies sold "cannot be bought back by the state unless a court orders its return."

The resources obtained from the sales cannot be used for regular expenditures. They will be used mainly for the development of infrastructure in the areas of health and education. The resources obtained from regional corporations will be invested in their regions for basic health and education infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Chile

Further on Malaysian Prime Minister Visit

Trade Agreement Signed

BK2206072291 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Malaysia and Chile have signed agreements to promote trade and scientific and technological cooperation as Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed continues an official visit. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is leading a 180-strong Malaysian delegation representing the government, banks, and industry on a four-day official visit to the South American nation.

After the cooperation agreements were signed by the foreign ministers, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the accords will strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. He said Malaysia is keen on entering the South American market via Chile.

Both Malaysia and Chile have expressed their willingness to foster closer bilateral relations in the context of South-South cooperation. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir told a news conference the Chile Government is serious about enhancing trade relations with Malaysia.

Senior officials from both countries will hold follow-up discussions to ensure the terms of all agreements become reality. These include air and sea links. Malaysia will also establish an embassy in Santiago soon.

More on Trade Agreements

BK2206110191 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0828 GMT 22 Jun 91

[By Abdul Rahman Sulaiman]

[Text] Santiago, June 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Chile have agreed to further enhance their relations to boost trade not only between the two countries but also between the Southeast and East Asian region and the Latin American countries.

This understanding follows a series of discussions between Malaysian leaders, officials and businessmen, and their Chilean counterparts here for the past two days.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed told a press conference here Friday that he was happy with the Chilean response towards Malaysia's intention to promote free trade among the developing countries within the framework of the South-South cooperation.

Describing the Chileans as "very responsive", the prime minister said they not only talked about it but also got on with it.

This, he said, was evident by the Conclusion of various agreements signed between the two sides so far to facilitate trade and promote better interaction among businessmen of the two countries.

Five such agreements had so far been signed. They are the economic, scientific and technical co-operation agreement, a trade agreement, reciprocal credit and payment agreement, the memorandum of understanding for the establishment of Malaysia-Chile Business Council and a joint-venture agreement for the setting up of a plant to manufacture safety industrial shoes in Malaysia.

The first four agreements involved the government agencies of the two countries while the other is between the Malaysian and Chilean businessmen.

The trade agreement among other things requires both countries as members of GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], to grant each other the most-favored nation treatment relating to customs duties and charges of any kind, rules, formalities and charges connected with customs clearance and all internal taxes or other international charges of any kind imposed on or in connection with imported or export products.

The agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, on the other hand, provides for the identification of economic, scientific, and technical coperation

programme and projects involving the participation of public and private sector organizations of both countries.

The prime minister, now on the third day of his five-day official visit to Chile, said in view of the responsive attitude of the Chileans, Malaysia was considering the establishment of its resident mission here.

At the moment, Chile has a diplomatic mission in Kuala Lumpur while Malaysia's interest in Chile is taken care by its mission in Argentina.

Malaysia was also desirous of using Chile as the stepping stone to enter the Latin American market and offering itself as a staging point for the entry of South American exports to countries in Southeast and East Asia.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia had also agreed to support Chile's attempt to resume its participation in the Non-Aligned Movement which it abandoned since 1973 following the military takeover of the country and subsequent criticisms over its infringement of human rights by the movement.

Transport Minister Dr. Ling Liong Sik who also met his counterpart, said both countries had agreed in principle to establish air and sea linkages to enhance trade and investment.

Iron Purchase Contract Signed

BK2406035591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0327 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Santiago, June 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian steel company, Perwaja Steel Sdn. Bhd., has signed a U.S. $900 million contract with a Chilean conglomerate, Compania Mineral del Pacifico S.A. (CMP) for the purchase of about 1.5 million tonnes of iron pellets.

The contract, effective 1993, is for 10 years with an annual value of U.S. $90 million.

The signatories were Perwaja Managing Director Eric Chia, who is among several industrialists accompanying Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed on a five-day official visit to Chile, and CMP President Rolf Sommer Sulfrian.

Chile's minister for mining, Juan Hamilton, said the two companies had shown confidence in each other's ability to conduct their business.

This, he said, was important because of the size of the contract and the time frame involved.

Sources said that it is normal for such contracts to cover over 10 years as this would ensure continuous supply of the raw material for steel production. Perwaja's other source of iron pellets is from Sweden, also over 10 years.

Sulfrian said Perwaja Steel was CMP's single biggest customer.

President Pardons Eleven Political Prisoners

PY2206024691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido has announced that President Patricio Aylwin pardoned 11 more political prisoners this morning. The minister noted that the decision was made in accordance with the law and not as a result of pressure exerted by the political prisoners, who have been on hunger strike for 21 days.

[Begin Cumplido recording] These prisoners had applied for pardons some time ago. The requests were made before the political prisoners decided to go on a hunger strike. Therefore the bills and the pardons were not the result of pressure. We have said repeatedly that we are against this hunger strike because it puts at risk the right to life. [end recording]

Minister Cumplido has reported that three of the prisoners are already on conditional freedom, six can regain their freedom at any time, and two others will stay in jail—even though they have been pardoned—because they have to answer other pending charges. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows PDC Leading Municipal Elections

PY2506010091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Summary] According to a poll carried out by the New Chile Institute from 8 to 12 June in Santiago, 34.3 percent of the population said that if elections were held on 30 June they would vote for the candidates from the Christian Democratic Party, PDC. The poll also indicates that the most popular parties in Chile are the PDC, the Parties for Democracy, the Socialist Party, and the Independent Democratic Union.

Government To Submit Bill on Tax Reductions

PY2206210291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has disclosed that in the next few days, the government will submit to Congress a draft bill reducing the tax on goods entering the country through the free trade zones from 9 to 6 percent. He said the purpose of this measure is to reconcile this tax with the general tax reduction on imported goods. Minister Foxley asserted that most legislators have already voiced their support for this draft bill; therefore, it is very likely that it will be handled expeditiously by Congress.

Foxley also voiced his satisfaction with the speedy way in which Congress approved, in less than 48 hours, the package of economic measures proposed by the government. Foxley said this proves that Chile is capable of reaching a consensus on basic issues of national interest. The minister added that the measures contribute to

Chile's reinstatement in the international community and, at the same time, guarantee exchange rate stability.

[Begin Foxley recording] This package of measures will yield results gradually, but the path we have taken is the correct one and I am sure economic agents will appreciate the significant political support from Congress. They will realize that it is not just a political achievement of the government but, above all, a sign of confidence in our economy and in the coherence of policies proposed on this occasion. [end recording]

Minister Foxley said he did not agree with comments made by the Central Labor Union that the economic package will cause unemployment, especially in the industrial sector—principally, in the shoemaking and textile sectors. The tax reduction will not affect the country's growth nor the number of job opportunities because national industries will face foreign competition efficiently by implementing modern measures such as technology improvement. [passage omitted]

Colombia

President Gaviria Discusses Escobar Surrender

LD2106233191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] [Presenter Henri Sannier] Now to Colombia, where public opinion welcomes with a certain satisfaction the surrender of Pablo Escobar, who is deemed to be the main cocaine baron in the world. Late this afternoon we learned that Pablo Escobar's elder brother also surrendered to justice. So events are gathering pace, but observers believe that drug traffic will nevertheless go on. In a few minutes Colombian President Cesar Gaviria will answer our questions from Bogota, but before that, the latest on this affair.

Many questions are asked about Pablo Escobar's surrender. More details now with Jean-Marc Illouz: [passage omitted]

[Sannier] President Gaviria is with us on a live link for this news bulletin. Good evening, Mr. President, and thank you for giving us this exclusive interview. Besides, it is the first time you have spoken in public since Pablo Escobar was arrested 48 hours ago [as heard]. So, the first question: Mr. Escobar is in jail, but many think that you negotiated his surrender: He chose his jail; there was no extradition; and he is apparently benefiting from a preferential regime.

[Gaviria, in Spanish with simultaneous French translation] No, I believe that these are rumors and I must say that they are totally groundless. It is in fact a common prison with a high security compound, and all measures were taken for his imprisonment. Obviously, as in all jails, there are installations for entertainment—this is also the case in French jails. Well, that is what can be said about it.

[Sannier] Mr. President, a diplomat who wants to remain anonymous believes that the key to the bargaining, if bargaining there was, might be the repatriation in Colombia of the funds belonging to drug dealers. Apparently it weighs much more than American aid these days.

[Gaviria] No, it was never mentioned during the talks we might have had with the large repression agencies, with the lawyers. These talks were only about problems concerning the personal safety of this dealer. We did not mention peace or repatriation of funds. Absolutely not!

[Unidentified speaker] What measures will you take to prevent Escobar from bribing his trial judges, as he certainly intends to do?

[Gaviria] We have strengthened our judicial system, and it is a challenge for our justice to have the possibility to judge Escobar and other dealers according to legal rules. It is what would have happened in France. I believe that we enforce the law. There is a certain number of constraints which prevents this trial from taking place for at least a year and in particular to avoid the kind of bullying to which our judges are exposed. For instance, the name of the judge will not be known so that we can fight as efficiently as possible the usual intimidation methods encountered in drug trafficking.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr. President, according to our sources it seems that Pablo Escobar intends to plead not guilty. Can you imagine that Pablo Escobar might be freed and cleared of all suspicions, of all charges of which he is accused?

[Gaviria] What worries me most is not what you are suggesting, but before everything that he pays for the crimes he committed, that an exemplary justice comes out of that [trial], that Colombian justice comes out of it reinforced, strengthened so that the struggle against the drug cartel becomes more efficient, and that people charged with so many crimes really pay for what they have done.

[Sannier] Mr. President, a last question. In your country, as you know, hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, of peasants make a living from cocaine since there is no other way in the country. How can they be convinced to change—for example, do you expect something from European countries?

[Gaviria] I believe that this is more the problem in Peru. I believe that in Colombia this is more a dealers problem than a farmers problem. I believe that on the international level each country must face its responsibilities, and I believe the whole of the international community has to face not only drug trafficking but also the chemical [word indistinct] trade, weapons trafficking, money laundering, and so on. So this is an extremely complex question that requires a multilateral answer, which needs to be much better coordinated than it is today.

[Sannier] Mr. President, thank you for answering our questions live. Thank you and good evening.

Interview With Leader of Self-Defense Groups

PA2406150291 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Interview with Commander Henry de Jesus Perez, leader of the peasant self-defense groups, by journalist Carlos Perdomo in the Middle Magdalena region; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Perdomo] What is the peasant self-defense groups' position now that Pablo Escobar has turned himself in and the rebels are engaged in a dialogue with the government in Caracas?

[Perez] Our position is to respect all the national government's policies in the ongoing peace processes with Mr. Pablo Escobar and all the rebel groups.

[Perdomo] But would the self-defense groups be willing to surrender or to avail themselves of the government decrees?

[Perez] We have always upheld that the self-defense groups' raison d'etre would no longer be when the state reaches an agreement with these outlaw groups.

[Perdomo] What then is the self-defense groups' position?

[Perez] When a rebel group or an organization such as Mr. Pablo Escobar's reaches an agreement with the state, we immediately cease our actions. We would not have any reason to continue our warfare with these gentlemen.

[Perdomo] Given that the Medellin Cartel chief has turned himself in, has your war against Pablo Escobar ended?

[Perez] Yes sir, I believe it is over. Although we always maintain a defensive position, we believe that if he made this decision to surrender to the authorities to reach an agreement with the government, there is no reason for us to continue a confrontation given that Escobar has accepted all the government's conditions.

[Perdomo] Mr. Perez, the whole nation has always wondered whether you have had an agreement with Pablo Escobar.

[Perez] We made a decision, and we have always upheld this decision. We have never reached an agreement with anyone before the state reaches an agreement or concludes its negotiations with them. We have not made any agreement with anyone who is outside the law.

[Perdomo] Speaking of the self-defense groups' reasons for fighting against subversive groups, meaning guerrilla groups, a dialogue is currently under way in Caracas. What is the self-defense groups' position on this? For example, would they be willing to accept a cease-fire?

[Perez] I think that if the government orders the Armed Forces to implement a cease-fire, we must follow suit because we cannot continue to fight when the government reaches agreements with those guerrilla groups.

[Perdomo] In other words, if the guerrilla groups agree to implement a cease-fire, the self-defense groups have no reason to continue fighting against them. Would you abide by those guidelines?

[Perez] We have always respected and abided by all the guidelines and negotiations that the government has carried out with all the guerrilla groups, and I believe that we would also do it in this case. We have always respected all the agreements, and we must continue to do so because that is one of our organization's goals.

[Perdomo] However, will you continue to fight the guerrilla groups as long as there are no peace agreements?

[Perez] I think so, because we, meaning the organization, have always been on the defensive. If we are attacked, we must defend ourselves. I believe that if a cease-fire agreement is reached with the government, we, the peasants, will not be attacked by those guerrilla groups. Therefore, the self-defense groups' raison d'etre would be lost.

[Perdomo] It was recently learned that a judge charged you; Mr. Perez, head of the self-defense groups; and Luis Rubio, former mayor of Puerto Boyaca; as well as other persons; with the La Honduras and La Negra massacres in Urab. What is your answer to this? What is the self-defense groups' position? Is this true? Did you participate in those massacres?

[Perez] Well, I believe we are being blamed for something we had nothing to do with. We hope that the judicial authorities will issue the appropriate ruling. Justice is fair and sincere, and we believe that this is what should be done with the charges against us.

[Perdomo] Let's talk about another subject, drug trafficking. Self-defense groups have also been charged with drug trafficking. Is that a fact?

[Perez] I think that if one has a friend who is involved in drug trafficking, it does not mean that an organization is involved in drug trafficking or has ties with that activity. I think one can have friends who are involved in many illegal organizations and activities, but this does not mean one is also involved.

[Perdomo] But this is a phenomenon that undoubtedly affects the country, too. It is a scourge that has affected the nation, Colombia, very much. Aside from the concept of the self-defense groups' war against the Medellin Cartel, will drug trafficking activities end now that Pablo Escobar is in prison?

[Perez] I think that Pablo Escobar is not the only drug trafficker in the country. There are many drug traffickers, and cocaine production and exports will not end just because this man is in prison. I think that other options and solutions must be sought to solve the drug

trafficking problem. This will not be achieved by imprisoning Mr. Escobar and other drug traffickers in the country. Another solution must be sought.

[Perdomo] Well, to conclude, Mr. Perez, many Colombians were surprised when they learned that you also have a representative at the National Constituent Assembly, which is in charge of reforming the Constitution and adopting extremely important decisions for Colombia's future. How was the National Constituent Assembly seat won? Was it through a group or movement that you fought against in the past, meaning the M-19 [19 April Movement]?

[Perez] I believe in our views about that guerrilla group, meaning the M-19, because since the group was demobilized, it has proved that it is sincere and wants the best for the country.

[Perdomo] What are your goals in the National Constituent Assembly?

[Perez] Our goal is a healthy and clean constitution for all the country, and also true justice.

ELN Demands Change in Peace Negotiators

PA2406185091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1723 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Army of National Liberation (ELN) today demanded a change in the government negotiators holding peace talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) in Caracas, Venezuela.

In a communique released in Bogota, the rebel organization requested the presence of Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana in the next round of talks, in order to speed up the dialogue.

Former priest Manuel Perez, who heads the group, said yesterday that there are disagreements within the government regarding the peace negotiations being held in Venezuela and he reported an increase in military operations that "are hindering the process."

In a telephone communication, Perez stated that the guerrilla groups are willing to declare a cease-fire, but he demanded a "clear and serious" position on the part of the Cesar Gaviria administration.

According to the guerrilla commander, in the last few weeks, the Colombian Army has begun a large-scale offensive against the CNGSB fronts and against "those who act as mediators in the peace process."

At least eight ELN members died over the weekend in clashes with the security forces in Santander, Bolivar, and Antioquia Department.

Perez warned that the ELN will continue the attacks on the country's petroleum infrastructure so as to prevent "the irrational export of crude, which has caused great economic harm to the country."

Cali Cartel Chief Rejects Surrender

PA2406194891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1814 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Cali cartel today gave clear signs that its chiefs will not surrender to authorities, thereby accepting the decrees on nonextradition and reduction of sentences as the Medellin Cartel kingpins have done.

In a communique, Cali cartel chief Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela said that he has already been tried and acquitted by the Colombian justice system. This statement is interpreted as his explicit rejection of submitting himself to the new legislation.

He denied that he and his brother Miguel are heads of the so- called Cali cartel, a group that in recent years has displaced the Medellin cartel in the cocaine business.

According to the logic of the Cali cartel drug lords—whose organization constitutes a modern, legal, and impenetrable business group—the new laws on drug trafficking were designed for the Medellin cartel, which was waging a war to the death against the state.

The Cali cartel "prefers lawyers and administrators rather than hired gunmen," a Colombian intelligence officer said. "That is why," he added, "it is very hard to take action against it. Most of its businesses are legal. It is almost impossible to detect the businesses' illegal origin from cocaine money."

According to security institutions, the Cali cartel controls 60 percent of the world's cocaine market and has seized complete control of the growing European market.

Last week, in a letter addressed to Robert Bonner, director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Rodriguez Orejuela challenged him to prove the drug-trafficking charges Bonner has made against him.

"I am sure the DEA does not have one iota of proof other than that presented by the U.S. Government seven years ago when it requested my extradition, first from Colombia and then from Spain. After a lengthy two-year-long trial, the request was rejected," Rodriguez stated.

He added: "It would be naive on my part to deny there is drug trafficking in Valle del Cauca (where Cali is located), but it is unfair to accuse that region of being the center of drug trafficking in Colombia."

Cali Cartel Chiefs Reportedly Consider Surrender

PA2506043491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0347 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jun (AFP)—Lawyers representing alleged drug traffickers from the southeastern city of Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, are holding legal

consultations regarding the drug lords' possible surrender to justice, Cali Criminal Investigations Director Ana Milena Ceron revealed on 24 June.

The official, who declined to disclose the identity of the alleged drug traffickers and how many are weighing the possibility of accepting President Cesar Gaviria's special antidrug legislation, explained that the consultations with her office began about one month ago.

According to the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the second-largest criminal organization operating in Colombia is the so-called Cali Cartel, which, they say, is headed by Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela.

A report recently delivered to the media by DAS states that the Cali Cartel handles 70 percent of the cocaine sold in Europe, having jostled its traditional rival the Medellin Cartel, whose chief, Pablo Escobar Gaviria, voluntarily surrendered to Colombian justice on 19 June.

Rodriguez Orejuela, in a letter addressed to DEA Director Robert Bonner on 21 June, denied having ties to drug trafficking and that he is the chief of the Cali Cartel.

Ambassador Resigns After Criticizing Drug Policy

PA2406191091 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota—It was officially reported today that Colombian Ambassador to Switzerland Enrique Parejo Gonzalez has resigned. It was explained that the diplomat decided to resign after criticizing President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo's policy on the surrender of drug traffickers and the reduction of sentences.

Parejo Gonzalez wrote an article in the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, saying that the surrender of Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar Gaviria took place under conditions in which he was not equal before the law. In the article, Parejo Gonzalez asked: Can one honestly talk of the surrender of drug traffickers to the state? Is not it more accurate to talk of the state's submission to the will of the criminals?

It was said that because he does not agree with the government decisions on the surrender of drug traffickers to Colombian justice, the ambassador to Switzerland wrote his resignation, which is already on Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa's desk. Parejo Gonzalez was the first Colombian justice minister to authorize the extradition of Colombian citizens to the United States. He was seriously wounded in an attack by hired gunmen in Budapest, Hungary, in 1987.

Reports Note Constituent Assembly Decisions

PA2406181191

[Editorial Report] Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 0113 GMT on 23 June carries a report by Hugo Sierra in live relay from the Constituent Assembly noting its revival of a special legislative commission much vilified in the past.

Sierra asks Constituent Assembly President Horacio Serpa about this commission. Serpa comments that the commission "will have two basic functions: one, to study projects to be presented to the Congress on constitutional reform; and two, to study the texts of the projects drawn up by President Cesar Gaviria in the exercise of the special powers to be granted to him by the Assembly."

Sierra adds that a direct representative of President Gaviria, with the right to vote, will be a member of this commission. Deputy Alberto Zalamea says he refused to be a member of the commission because the Assembly "has returned to politicking." Zalamea says he opposes the idea that the Assembly can vote to extend its own term of existence.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1220 GMT on 23 June carries a report that the "Constituent Assembly plenum has approved a bill stating that departmental governors will be elected directly by the people for a three-year term. The first election is scheduled to be held on 27 October, when the members of the new Congress will also be elected." The elected officials would be sworn in on 2 January 1992.

The same report says that "the Constituent Assembly on 22 June approved the right to strike, with the exception of the essential services: medical, judicial, medical, Army, and police."

State Structure Approved at Constituent Assembly

PA2506005591 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 21 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] The Constituent Assembly yesterday unanimously approved the three branches of public power and three state organizations to form the state's organizational structure.

According to the corresponding article, this structure is made up as follows: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches, as well control organizations such as the Attorney General's Office and the Comptroller General's Office. The electoral branch is also a government organization that is part of the National Council and the National Civilian Registry Office.

The legislative branch is comprised of the Congress of the Republic, which in turn is made up by the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Representatives.

The executive branch, represented by the national government, is comprised of the president of the republic, the ministers, and administrative departments' directors.

The Supreme Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court, the State Council, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Nation, the courts, and the judges all form part of the judicial branch.

Station Lists Approved, Denied Assembly Issues

PA2406213791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jun 91

[M-19-sponsored newscast]

[Text] There was a brief respite today for the Constituent Assembly members who have been attending sessions every day. The first round of sessions has ended with a resumption planned for 25 June. Here is a report on what has been approved and what has been rejected to date.

The following items have been approved: the dissolution of the Congress; the identification card [cedula] registration on 17-26 August; the Senate and Chamber of Representatives elections on 27 October; a strict system of requirements and motives for the disqualification of congressmen; congressional ability to censure and dismiss ministers; the creation of the office of vice president, who will be elected at the same time as the president in a two-round election; popular election for governors for a three-year term; a limit of one term for the president, the attorney general, the comptroller, and the governors; retention of control of liquor enterprises by individual departments; intendancies and commissariats to become departments; the banning of extradition; the creation of a people's defender in charge of human rights; adoption of measures to enhance justice; the creation of a constitutional court; the creation of a solicitor general for serious crimes; and the permissibility of divorce for civil and Catholic marriages.

Bills on the following issues were not approved: abortion; sentence reduction for all prisoners in the country; the repatriation of those citizens held and convicted abroad; obligatory voting; and conscientious objection to obligatory military service.

Hunger Strike Staged by 4,000 Inmates

PA2106172591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1045 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Bogota, 21 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Four thousand inmates at "La Picota" and "Modelo" jails in Bogota are on a hunger strike to protest the National Constituent Assembly's refusal to reduce prison terms.

The strikers, who began their action yesterday, said that the protest will continue until the Constituent Assembly explains why it did not approve the measure.

Yesterday during the first debate, the Constituent Assembly rejected the motion to reduce prison terms by 33 percent. According to official figures, there are more than 20,000 Colombian inmates.

In February, inmates began a massive turn-in of weapons—knives and other sharp objects—"as an act of resolve and a wish to contribute to the country's peace." In exchange, the inmates asked that the Constituent Assembly reduce their jail terms.

Leonel Cruz, who directs the "Modelo" prison, one of the country's largest, said that the situation there "is completely normal," and announced there would be meetings with the strikers and the Assembly members to seek a solution to the problem.

Cruz reported that about 3,000 of his inmates are taking part in the protest movement that threatens to extend to other jails in the interior of the country.

About 1,000 inmates from Bogota's "La Picota" jail joined the movement, and it has been annouced that inmates from the northwestern city of Barranquilla will do likewise.

The director of prisons said that surveillance reinforcements have been sent to the two jails to prevent disorders.

Ecuador

Congress Dismisses Culture-Education Minister

PA2406132691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2005 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Quito, 22 June (DPA)— The administration of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja suffered a major setback, which will have serious electoral repercussions, when the congress censured and dismissed Culture and Education Minister Alfredo Vera. The latter was tried by congress at the request of Jaime Nebot, presidential candidate of the radical right.

The Vera-Nebot duel, which has kept Ecuador on edge for more than two weeks, finally began favoring Nebot when five center-right deputies resolved to vote in favor of the minister's dismissal. Vera was charged by his deputy minister Trajano Andrade with alleged irregularities in the purchase of school construction material.

President Rodrigo Borja's social democratic government, which has already had four ministers dismissed, went to such lengths to stop Vera's censure that it was accused of "buying votes" to stop Nebot from getting the 37 votes needed for the censure to pass in congress.

Thirty-nine of the 72 members of the unicameral body did vote to censure Vera, a feisty 60-year old intellectual who, because of a congenital ailment, uses orthopedic equipment.

Since the political trial began 18 days ago, Nebot and Vera have exchanged bitter charges and even insults. Meanwhile, the government has denounced a "conspiracy of the worse type between the extreme rightist and leftist sectors."

The Social Christian leader (Jaime Nebot) did indeed have the support of the socialist sectors, the radical marxists, and the rightist populist sectors, which in total ensured him of 33 votes. A dissident liberal and two center-right parties finally gave the Social Christians this victory, which is expected to have immediate political consequences.

Nebot's candidacy is expected to rise considerably in the polls after falling over the past 10 weeks because of the abrupt entry of former Quito mayor (Sixto) Duran-Ballen. Furthermore, according to rumors which are increasing daily, the populist leader Abdala Bucaram is getting ready to resign from his candidacy, which would help Nebot, because it would give him an opportunity for victory in the May 1992 elections.

Paraguay

Complementary Municipal Election Results Given

PY2406235891 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 24 Jun 91 Special Supplement p 2

[Text] An independent has won in the municipality of Asuncion. The municipalities of the second, third, and fourth most important cities in the country are painted blue [the color of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA] while the fifth and sixth most populous cities in the country are painted red [the color of the Colorado Party, ANR]. The ANR rules in the majority of cities throughout the country.

As on 26 May, the complementary elections resulted in several surprises.

PLRA candidate Osvaldo Ferras won by a small margin in San Lorenzo, the second most important municipality in the country, with 150,000 inhabitants and 50,000 voters. He beat Manuel Criscioni, an independent candidate who campaigned magnificently. The ANR candidate came in third, far behind the winner.

A PLRA candidate, Celos Cabral, also won in Lambare, the fourth most important city in the country in terms of number of inhabitants and voters. He beat not only the ANR candidate (the brother of [ANR Vice President] Blas N. Riquelme), but also numerous independent candidates.

In the elections of 26 May, the PLRA won in Fernando de la Mora, the third most important city in the country.

Luque, the fifth most important city in the country, is the most important ANR bastion in the metropolitan area. ANR Candidate Andres Caceres easily won the election by a broad margin.

The ANR won in Ciudad del Este, the sixth most important city in terms of number of inhabitants, in the 26 May elections.

The political map of the populous Asuncion suburban area is virtually dominated by the PLRA. In addition to Lambare, Fernando de la Mora, and San Lorenzo, the PLRA also won in Capiata, Mariano Roque Alonso (where elections were held yesterday), and Limpio. The ANR banner is flying in Luque (a large city), and Villa Elisa, San Antonio, and Nemby, all small cities. The PLRA also won in the nearby towns of Ita and J. Augusto Saldivar.

The ANR supremacy in the majority of towns nationwide was confirmed in the complementary elections held on 23 June.

The results of the elections held in 28 towns on 23 June are as follows:

ANR: Won in Luque, Aregua, San Antonio, Guarambare, Piribebuy, San Bernardino, Villa Hayes, San Roque Gonzalez, San Salvador, Yuty, San Juan del Parana, Carlos A. Lopez, Naranjal, Cedrales, and Ciudad Presidente Franco.

PLRA: Won in Lambare, San Lorenzo, Capiata, Ita, Roque Alonso, Laureles, J. Augusto Saldivar, Coronel Oviedo, and Raul Arsenio Oviedo.

In total, the ANR won in 15 towns and the PLRA in nine.

An independent won in the town of Santa Ria (Alto Parana) while elections were again suspended in Mayor Martinez. There was still no information from Nacunday, Santa Rosa del Monday, and Laureles [as published] at press time.

The victory of the PLRA candidate in the city of Coronel Oviedo is also noteworthy.

'Illegal' Prison Discovered in Cuidad del Este

PY2206162891 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Criminal Judge Juan B. Arguello, who has jurisdiction in the Alto Parana region, verified yesterday the existence of an unauthorized jail within the Alto Parana Department Government compound in Ciudad del Este. The judge was accompanied by Celsa Mendez, a court clerk; Felicia de Cantuni, a public defender; Ramon Echeverria, a prosecutor; and 15 members of the Alto Parana Bar Association. The judge took this action in compliance with an order from Ciudad del Este Appellate Court. He and his delegation discovered that the jail has been housing 57 inmates—including children whose ages range from 11 to 15—who have not yet stood trial and who are being held in an unhealthy environment. Some inmates of the "illegal jail" charged that they were tortured in various area police stations. They also claimed that they were asked to pay sums of money ranging from 100,000 to 1.5 million guaranies to obtain their freedom without undergoing a court proceeding.

Interest Rates on Industrial Loans Lowered

PY2406013991 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Jun 91 p 12

[Excerpt] After a meeting with President General Andres Rodriguez this morning, the economic team decided to lower the interest rate—from 36 to 33 percent— on loans to the industrial sector using resources made available by the Inter-American Development Bank. It also decided to subsidize wheat growers through a line of rediscount at 25 percent, two percentage points lower than the discount rate for other production sectors. This information was furnished by Central Bank President Dr. Jose Enrique Paez.

The Central Bank president also noted that the discount rate on loans ultimately intended for the industrial sector could be lowered depending on the country's economic and financial situation in coming months. In fact, spokesmen for the industrial sector have requested that the discount rate for industrial loans be set at 28 percent, the same discount rate for loans to the agricultural sector, using funds made available by the Japanese Government. [passage omitted]

Peru

New Foreign Ministry Secretary General Named

PY2406145291 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] The government has officially named Alejandro Portillo Fernandez as the new Foreign Ministry secretary general and deputy foreign minister.

He replaces Alejandro San Martin Calvo. The official gazette has reported that the resignation of San Martin Calvo has been accepted and that Portillo Fernandez has been named to replace him.

Social Communications System Director Resigns

PY2206031491 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 16 Jun 91 p 3

[Summary] The government has accepted the resignation of Jorge Sosa Miranda, director of the National Social Communication System, Sinacoso.

More on Arrest of Shining Path 'Senior Leaders'

PY2506004691 Madrid EFE in English 0007 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Lima, June 24 (EFE)—Peruvian police have captured three senior leaders of the Maoist "Shining Path" guerrillas in a house in the capital, Lima newspapers reported Monday [24 June].

The three, Yovanka Pardave Trujillo, Tito Valle Travesano and Victor Garcia Castano, were arrested Sunday in a house in the working-class district of San Martin de Porres. The three are members of the Central Committee of the rebel organization, which is headed by Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman.

Before going underground, Valle Travesano was president of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, which defended detainees accused of terrorism and which was considered a branch of Shining Path.

Garcia Castano is a teacher and folklore expert.

The arrests capped a week of successful actions by security forces against Shining Path, in which at least 80 rebels were killed or wounded in various parts of the country, according to authorities.

More than 22,000 people have been killed by guerrillas and security forces since Shining Path took up arms in 1980.

President Alberto Fujimori said Sunday that three Shining Path leaders had been captured, but he did not name them.

He said the three were present in a videotaped party with Guzman.

The videotape, which was obtained by the government and broadcast on television in January, shows Guzman dancing among a group of Shining Path members.

Fujimori Gives Rifles to Peasant Defense Patrols

PY2406165891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Lima, 23 Jun (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today, 23 June, in the central department of Junin, handed over 500 breech-loading rifles to the "Peasant Defense Patrols" civilian militias. The weapons will be used to fight terrorism.

Fujimori left for Chaquicocha, some 50 km northeast of Huancayo, the departmental capital, 315 km east of Lima, heading a delegation of foreign diplomats. Among them is U.S. Ambassador to Peru Anthony Quainton. Fujimori said he was taking these diplomats with him to witness the actions of his government.

President Fujimori's delegation also includes Prosecutor Pedro Mendez, Supreme Court President Cesar Fernandez Arce, and Peruvian Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales, the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission.

In his speech to some 4,000 "peasant defense patrolmen," Fujimori said that the granting of weapons for the "Peasant Defense Patrols," which counter the subversive groups, must be treated "as seriously as possible" because it is a system of self-defense for the inhabitants of the Andean zones that are under a state of emergency due to terrorist activities.

He added that in western countries it is called self-defense, which is the peasants right because they are

defending their lives and their freedom, and for this reason the supply of weapons is a "logical and sensible" measure.

Fujimori also referred to campaigns abroad in favor of the "Shining Path" terrorist group, saying that "well-dressed and well-fed youths from the United States and Europe seek to indulge their consciences by providing support in dollars, marks, and francs."

He said that those people do not know that this money "is used to spill the blood of innocent peasants whom they will never meet."

"If they are so interested in Peru they should come here to learn about the country and not let someone sell them a Third World revolution as if it were an exotic trinket," Fujimori said.

The Peruvian president said his country is one of the most violent in the world because of the structure of violence that has developed as a result of the ostracism, discrimination, and exploitation by the great majorities. To that we must now add the violence caused by the "organized international" drug trafficking and terrorism organizations.

Fujimori was also accompanied by Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Defense Minister Jorge Torres, Interior Minister Victor Malca, Education Minister Oscar de la Puente, and Transport Minister Jaime Yoshiyama. He said that his government "is committed" to end all causes of violence in Peru.

Defense Minister Jorge Torres said that more weapons will be given to the "Peasant Defense Patrols" because the Armed Forces cannot defend all the towns that are attacked, adding that the Army will continue to train the "Peasant Defense Patrols" in the use of these weapons.

A few months ago, the Army gave weapons to peasant organizations of other zones in the same central region of Peru, where there are intensive terrorist activities.

Policeman Killed in Tingo Maria; Enatru Guarded

PY2206231591 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Report by Fabio Rojas]

[Text] A member of the security police forces was killed by subversives in Tingo Maria before dawn on 20 June. Subversives killed NCO Nolazco Condor Gaudencio, who will be buried in Lima today. Condor Gaudencio was ambushed by subversives in the area known as El Puente, 10 km from Tingo Maria.

Moreover, a large police contingent is now in charge of the security of all Enatru [National Urban Transport Enterprise] and government properties in Lima to protect them from subversive attacks and to guarantee normal urban transportation services. This measure was adopted in view of recent violence in Lima and possible strikes by Enatru employees.

Alleged Terrorists Kill National Police NCO

PY2306220291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0019 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Lima, 22 Jun (EFE)—Alleged terrorists murdered a National Police NCO who worked as a driver at Lima Government Palace in Huaycon on 22 June.

The official press agency, ANDINA, has reported that NCO Hector Dominguez Alvarado was stopped while driving a car by five heavily armed men who riddled him with bullets. A civilian who was riding the car with the NCO was also injured. The police are conducting a dragnet near the site of the crime with the assistance of helicopters.

Alleged terrorists also murdered Alejandro Magno Gomez, mayor of Villa El Salvador District in Lima, on 22 June.

Transport System To Import 450 Chinese Buses

PY2306213091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p 9

[Text] According to an agreement signed between the National Cooperative Bank (Bancoop) and the PRC industrial corporation Norinco, another 450 buses will be imported from China to join Lima's public transport system.

The agreement includes the import of adequate spare parts for the number of vehicles being imported. This operation follows the import of 50 Chinese buses, which are already in use in our capital.

According to Bancoop Chairman Dr. Santiago Dongo Ramirez, the buses currently in use must be totally renovated because they are not providing good service and are polluting the environment with the toxic gases they produce.

The agreement was signed by Dongo Ramirez; Humberto Rios Cuellar, Bancoop manager; and Shi Zhao Ran, the Chinese corporation's general manager for Latin America.

Morocco To Provide Technical Aid for Mines

PY2306215291 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 13

[Text] Morocco, which has 75 percent of the world's phosphate reserves, will provide technical aid to begin exploiting large deposits in Bayovar as of July.

Council of Ministers President Carlos Torres y Torres Lara signed a cooperation agreement with Moroccan diplomats yesterday. This preliminary agreement will permit the drawing up of bilateral agreements.

Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Ben Moufty said his country is willing to grant technical aid not only in the mining field but also in the agricultural, industrial, fishing, energy, tourism, transportation, and telecommunications fields.

During the ceremony at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Mohamed Ben Moufty also stated that Morocco wishes to act as a "bridge" so Peru can export its agricultural goods to the international market.

The Moroccan ambassador said: "We can act as bridge between you and the Arabian, EEC, and African countries."

Minister Torres y Torres Lara disclosed that a Peruvian-Moroccan working committee has been established and it is "looking into all prospects for cooperation between the two countries."

The Peruvian foreign minister explained that this is part of a "practical diplomacy designed to promote the country's development."

He admitted that Peru is experiencing a very difficult economic situation, but this should not weaken the cooperation efforts of friendly countries.

The signing of this first agreement also allows Morocco to acquire Peruvian know-how about the construction of shipyards, about which Sima-Peru [Maritime Industrial Service-Peru] technicians have become experts.

Mohamed Ben Moufty disclosed that the Peruvian energy and mines minister will soon travel to his country to find a way of implementing the cooperation agreement in the mining field.

The Moroccan ambassador also said that technical aid in the agricultural field should be regarded as a "fact" because of the great progress his country has made in this sector.

The ambassador noted: "We have 42 enterprises that irrigate 1.5 billion hectares; over the past 30 years we have improved the quality of our products and increased our production."

He also explained that thanks to the effort to perfect its production, Morocco has been able "to attain European, Far Eastern, and African standards."

At the end of the ceremony Minister Torres y Torres Lara refrained from making further comments to the media.

Venezuela

President Carlos Perez Declares War on Drugs

PA2106200591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1507 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Teresa Careno Cultural Center in Caracas—live]

[Text] My dear Venezuelans: Today we are attending an event that is so important for the country's institutional life. I am here to propose a national commitment against drug trafficking and consumption. I confess that I am moved by Venezuela's overwhelming response to this call by the massive presence at the biggest event ever celebrated at the Teresa Careno theater. I am moved to see the boys and girls from various high schools and universities, young cadets from military schools, and representatives from all sectors of the Venezuelan community. To see them this way is a good start for the campaign we are beginning today against the abominable crime to humanity.

Drug trafficking today is the most extensive and powerful criminal organization that has ever existed on this earth. Drug trafficking has led the way to a huge and complicated phenomenon, which has altered the behavior of the world's present-day society. There is no social field that has resisted the penetrating force of this curse, and there are no values or behaviors that have not changed in some way or other.

Drug trafficking and consumption are having a political, economic, and social effect that ranges from the consumer's personal and family drama to its effect on modern society's macro economy and macro politics, in the countries where drugs are produced and where they are consumed, including the countries that serve as a bridge to the criminal traffic. The size of this problem is intangible; the present-day impact of drugs on society goes as far as modifying the ways governments work. Drugs silently permeate all levels of society. If this wretched scourge, which erodes structures and institutions, is not halted, what may happen is unpredictable and unavoidably catastrophic to humanity. This is not an exaggeration resulting from the justifiable alarm that drugs cause, because one sees that drugs can alter the size of a country's economy by giving it an unprecedented mercantile capacity unseen in the world before. Drugs, by producing earnings beyond the means of any private or public entity, create conditions for society to organize under different patterns than what results when society is organized by the efforts of its own citizens, thus changing the basic values that comprise a hard working and productive society. I do not wish to repeat what is obvious and dramatic, but drugs cause the break up of society by attacking its innermost core—its youth.

The state is doubly harassed. Its institutions and officials are inexorably confronted with the lethal dilemma between the attraction and threat of criminals. This situation leads to serious distortion, both in those who have been enticed into jeopardizing the fulfillment of the state's purposes and in those who have been threatened and feel compelled to remain passive or neglect their duties.

There is also another type of distortion of similar importance. The state's security system, intelligence services, and preventive and suppressive police work have not only grown, but experienced the permanent temptation

of bribery as well. Bribery becomes inevitable. This would be a tragic occurrence in society because, not only must what is saved through the arms race limitations be unavoidably spent in the fight against drugs—resources that might be devoted to the immediate improvement of the people's standard of living—but the antidrug agencies' infiltration by drug traffickers leads to a conflicting situation of mistrust and confusion in society.

Drugs are not connected with one type of crime only. Drugs are the expression of a complex criminal network with varied stages and participants ranging from planting to consumption. Perversely, this is the most integrated and internationalized activity that mankind has ever known. This activity moves the will of average people, and in the circles of leadership creates cravings unknown to men and women of the present time. Drugs go beyond borders and the usual control and security systems. At the present time, drugs are the fundamental enemy of all mankind. A consideration of the drama in this way and from this viewpoint is no exaggeration. Of course, the world knows and has known other scourges, such as the arms race, plagues and epidemics, nuclear weapons, and AIDS, to mention only a few. However, none of these scourges ever became the world threat that this abominable and criminal activity poses.

There always existed a clear determination by leaders and people regarding the horrendous calamities that the world has suffered. They confronted these catastrophes as problems to be overcome or enemies to be defeated. The case of drugs is different. Because of their ability to create immense wealth and because of the characteristics of the convulsed contemporary society, drugs affect the behavior and morals of those who must confront them. Drugs must be combatted with other weapons, and in a manner different from the way the nations have dealt with them so far.

We must declare war on drug trafficking worldwide. [applause] This is not an euphemism or a way to underline the statement.

When we speak of declaring war on drugs, we mean just that. We mean to use all of the country's political, economic, military, institutional, police, educational, and cultural resources to ban this scourge and discourage those who might be tempted to fall in its trap. Above all, we are talking about the authentic political will of our government and our society's essential institutions. The state must use all its resources to wage this war. This means that the government must carry out preventive and repressive actions.

However, all the other state branches must follow suit. In my role as head of the state, I invite the legislative branch to reform the law, and the judicial branch to use the mechanisms to strictly punish those who participate in one of that abominable and criminal network's phases. I particularly urge them to reject temptations that may influence some of its members.

Nevertheless, we would be making a great mistake if we believed that this war must only be waged by the state and the government. No war, much less this one, is won if society as a whole does not participate with a high morale and a clear idea of what is being done and what must be done. The Venezuelan society must organize itself to fight this war.

It is not enough for each family to isolate itself in the naive belief that its children will thus be protected from this scourge. Unfortunately, this is not so parents, because this danger may loom over your children and young ones around the corner, in the streets or at the colleges, day or night, and all the measures to abolish this scourge will be rendered useless. It is necessary to go out in the streets and fight drug trafficking, and the state as a whole—particularly the government—must lead this battle so that the citizens may feel encouraged to wage it as well. This war is waged at home and at school, at work and at parties, during your daily activities and during your leisure hours, with the young and old, with the rich and poor. It is a no-holds-barred battle for the Venezuelan nation's dignity and salvation.

My fellow citizens, you will undoubtedly ask: What can we do for such an enormous confrontation if we are so divided and opposed? What can we do if we face a situation in which the traditional Venezuelan fraternity seems to have been lost and corruption seems to have infiltrated all levels of our society? Times are certainly difficult, but these are times that dare us to take up great challenges as nations rise to the occasion while reaching decisive crossroads in their history.

Venezuela must unite, and it can unite, to wage this war. With this firm belief I urge the country to wage it wholeheartedly. Venezuelans, without distinction, friends or foes, Venezuelans or foreigners, civilians or military, young or old, businessmen or workers, must all be prepared to wage the struggle and history will be grateful to this generation.

I am summoning the country to a war against drug trafficking and consumption, both of which I am placing on an equal footing, as equal priorities, to prevent our children from being damaged, to avoid compromising our present and future, to avoid transforming the face of a Venezuela that is struggling to fulfill its destiny into a grimace of degradation, and also to fully express our universal solidarity.

Venezuela's situation with regard to the drug problem is terribly difficult. Its condition is that of a country where, apparently, the most important problem is that it has become a base of operations, a storage center, a depot for large quantities of drugs, the final destination of which are the great consumer centers of the United States and Europe. This situation is a growing consequence of the intensive pressure being exerted on the drug traffickers in countries on our borders, especially Colombia, which has endured the most frightful attacks by the drug traffickers.

At present, fortunately, we seem to be defeating drug trafficking at a cost of extreme suffering and all sorts of disorders, which should constitute a lesson and an admonition to the Venezuelan people.

In Venezuela, the seriousness of the problem cannot be concealed. We are no longer just a bridge, but a base of operations. The spreading tentacles of this modern criminal society has caused the regrettable appearance of complicities which, in our traditional views, seem unexplainable.

The fact that people linked to the elite levels of leadership, in the economic, political, military, parliamentary, or religious spheres, should become engaged in this criminal enterprise shows that the problem is serious, that there is the intention to infiltrate all levels of authority in society.

It also proves, fortunately, that these complicities are individualized and individualizable, that the catastrophe can be stopped, and that institutions should be alert because the lengthy, skillful, and opulent arm of crime could be lying in ambush.

I am not calling for the maintenance or development of a collective paranoia that will lead people to suspect everyone and everything, but for a prudent watchfulness that will help us to prevent the spread of the curse and uproot that part of it that has already breached our until recently weak barriers.

In 1990, 8,000 kg of cocaine were seized. So far in 1991, 10 times that amount of drugs have been seized: 833,000 kg. This proves that trafficking has increased considerably, even though the efficiency of drug control has substantially improved.

Plantations have been destroyed. Over the past two years, approximately 1.2 million plants, over 2,500 kg of seeds, and 60,000 kg of dry marijuana have been seized and destroyed. Approximately 9,000 arrests have been made for the possession of drugs over the past 18 months, which reveals the seriousness of the problem. Of these arrests, 72 percent were adults, 28 percent were minors under age 18, 85 percent were men, and 15 percent were women, which probably indicates to us that women, as mothers and wives, are key figures in this declared war.

As a country new in its role as victim of the drug traffickers' insanity, we have also made mistakes that need to be corrected. Never have I stressed so much the need not only to openly fight drug trafficking, but also the need for us to seriously create a national awareness and an interest among all sectors for a concerted action. We should not just concern ourselves with consumption and transportation, without activating the intelligence needed to penetrate and dismantle the networks. We need to awaken a national awareness of the frightening danger we face.

It is only fair to recognize that our Armed Forces and police, despite their only too recent training, have inflicted memorable and overwhelming blows against international cocaine trafficking. This intelligence effort must be directed to identify and arrest the heads of national and international drug cartels, whoever they are.

The recent arrest of a prominent ruling party politician is a categorical example of the behavior the government is willing to assume.[applause] Another mistake we made was the dispersion of efforts among police forces all over the world and among the country's own police and security forces. This scatterring is the traffickers' best friend. Cooperation has increased on the international front, especially with the U.S. DEA and with Colombian military and police authorities. On the national front, I have instructed the drug control minister, the ministers of interior affairs, defense, and justice, and the Conacuid [National Commission Against Illegal Drug Trafficking] president, to form a joint command against drug trafficking. Now with the approval of the UN convention against drug trafficking, we will increase international cooperation to its maximum level.

The goal is to reach the root of the problem and not simply fight its most visible aspects. We need to reach the directors, financiers, promoters, and money launderers. We need to reach all those involved in social degradation—they, themselves are degraded by the terrible job they are doing. We need to ensure that the country—and the criminals—knows that we cannot have and will not have political or social considerations, false understandings, or any type of collusion; that this war is for real; and that I am leading the war the country is waging to save Venezuela. [applause]

We are taking measures in Venezuela and Latin America. We cannot forget that in Bolivia and Peru, coca crops are linked to ancestral traditions and urgent needs of a poor and impoverished peasant population. Therefore, the solution to the problem cannot be exclusively of a police or military nature. It also requires a social solution; otherwise, the remedy will only be circumstantial.

It is not true that Latin Americans are responsible for this crime against mankind, as has been implied by certain media sources in industrialized countries. It is also untrue that Latin Americans are the great drug consumers, or the ones who finance its production, buy it, and create the market. There is no doubt that the essence of the problem lies with the great markets and the huge financial sources. That is where we can find the answer to the old dilemma of who is more guilty: the one who sins for the money or the one who pays money for the sin. Here we can answer without any hesitation, cynicism, or immorality [desliz etico] that the one who pays for the sin is more guilty. [applause].

I emphasize this criminal configuration of the drug problem to visualize its vast ramifications and implications. The countries in which there are large drug demands must adopt strong measures, without which all our efforts will be insufficient or futile. I firmly reiterate that there is a problem with education and culture and with values and goals in the youths of the countries where consumption is prevalent and growing. We also have a problem with education and culture in our countries and, now I must add, with information, in being able to face the huge enemy of our present and future: drugs. We cannot be asked to have our countries under a permanent state of siege while the great consuming countries do not go to the roots of their own drama. The struggle will not be effective as long as the efforts in the north are not equivalent to the efforts in the south.

The current circumstances have made it necessary to make of the struggle against drug trafficking and consumption one of the main points in the integration we have been promoting in regional and subregional blocs, particularly in Latin America. The dramatic outlook of this criminal activity perhaps can be a specific way for all Latin Americans to understand once and for all that no problem can be solved or thoroughly faced without the integration and efforts of all those who live in this region.

The United States must understand that we are firm allies, but that we oppose all attempts at subordination or actions that are purely unilateral. The effort to recover the institutions that have been pervaded by the impact of drugs and the struggle for the credibility of the society's leadership—severely questioned when some of its members are found to be linked to this nefarious activity—are possible only to the extent that we meet this problematic situation with courage and without compromise.

We do not maintain that the only battle front is suppression. We know that there are youths who, because of the breakup of families, extreme social conditions, the absence of basic values, consumer temptations, or a mixture of all these factors, could be led to the criminal world of drugs. Alongside the inevitable suppression that the consumption of drugs brings about, it is essential, I repeat, that families and schools wage a profound and great educational effort. Without a doubt, it is the families, parents, and in general, those close to the child, who have the first responsibility to inspire healthy attitudes which will later help the child as an adult attain his goals and objectives.

Of course, this entails instilling in a child a clear awareness of what benefits or harms his physical, emotional, and mental health and his productive integration into his family and social environment. Families which, in response to media reports on drugs, do not discuss this topic with their children to warn and instill in them—in a healthy manner—a deeply rooted attitude against these habits will make those children believe that drugs are acceptable; or those children will develop a relative indifference regarding what is happening around them.

Schools must become the most important bastion in this war we have declared. Teachers and professors, as well as parents and custodians, must turn educational centers into bastions in the defense of the integrity and morality of the citizens. The media bears a major responsibility, not just in directly confronting the problem but also in those factors that indirectly—by way of example—can make our young people fall prey to the false values promised by a world of easy money, luxury, or addiction.

The media must be sufficiently effective to become an element that informs the citizens and provides objective information to denounce those that commit this abominable offense, while making sure it is not serving as an instrument to slander someone without any grounds. The media has a lofty and delicate responsibility. This is the right time for the Catholic Church and all the churches that exist here to play a guiding and more outspoken and broader role than the role they are playing now. Civic organizations, neighborhood associations, the political parties' youth wings, women's groups, and environmental groups bear a huge and unquestionable responsibility in this formidable struggle.

It is time for those groups that are essential in the intellectual and spiritual education of citizens to take upon themselves the task that they must fulfill with greater vigor and daring. The Armed Forces and the police must pursue things that lie beyond the grasp of the moral strength of citizens. The military and police forces can complement social institutions and the values they promote but can never replace them. This has been the failure of the war on drugs in many countries. The idea is to make force replace the moral and spiritual development of men and women, and that is simply impossible.

Here we have a summary of the measures we will adopt:

1. Promulgation of a UN convention to adopt measures at the international level against drugs and the creation of the National Command Against Drug Trafficking and Abuse [Comando Nacional de Lucha contra el Trafico y Consumo de Drogas], which are the chief reasons for this ceremony. All national sectors will be represented to give a tangible instrument to the idea that this struggle involves all Venezuelans. In this ceremony, we have enacted a law that approves the UN Convention on Illicit Drug Trafficking and Psychotropic Substances, together with the respective ratification instrument. It is already the law of the land. The chief goal of this convention is to promote cooperation among the signatory countries to deal with the various aspects of drug trafficking. This instrument contains interesting guidelines referring to reciprocal assistance in law enforcement, judicial, and administrative aspects, which no doubt will enable our country to join efforts with other countries of the world in the struggle against this scourge.

The participation of a state in the repression of this crime against mankind must be strongly supported by

other governments. This participation must be an objective of the state's foreign policy, not only of its justice administration programs.

The agreement recognizes this need, and it even grants upon foreign organizations, such as the UN's Social and Economic Council Narcotics Commission and the International Board of Narcotics Control, the duties of supervising and overseeing world compliance with this agreement.

2. Creation of a unified command at the ministers' level to fight drug trafficking.

3. Creation of a national juvenile commission against drug trafficking and consumption. I will deliver this proposal to the Education Ministry as well as to all the student federations of the country, so that our youths can join in a struggle which is theirs, namely the struggle for the future.

4. The Foreign Ministry will expeditiously create a working group to establish the basis for a North-South agreement and a Latin American integrationist agreement on working together and using all means against drug trafficking. This will allow for the participation of all countries and regions, as I proposed in Belgrade at the meeting of heads of state of the nonaligned countries.

5. The Interior Affairs Ministry, the Copre [Presidential Committee to Reform the State], and the National Commission Against Illegal Drug Use will immediately revise the existing juridical norms to enable the Executive Branch and the Congress to update them, and propose all the new regulations that may be required.

6. We will sponsor, along with the prevention activities and arrest operations, a substantial improvement in antidrug investigative, intelligence, and preventive activities.

7. We will sponsor immediate agreements with national businessmen to support the agreements signed between my administration and the United States, the Central Bank and the Venezuelan Finance Ministry, and the Drug Ministry and the U.S. Treasury to control and prevent the laundering of drug money. We will place particularly strict controls on the banking and financial sector, the real estate sector, and the pharmaceutical-chemical sector.

8. Also, I will continue to struggle to make the proposal for an international antidrug police triumph, and to declare drug trafficking a crime against humanity.

Venezuelans, I urge you all, as in the great battles of our history, to join me in this struggle, which we will dedicate to our children and the children of our children. We can join our efforts in this struggle, as we did to gain our independence or to achieve democracy. This challenge is just as big as the aforementioned accomplishments; today's challenge to Venezuelans should also be this big. Let us get to work. [applause]

Party Head Seeks Solution to Drug Problem

PA2106152691 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Social Christian Party, COPEI, has asked the government to declare a national emergency against drugs.

Fernandez is convinced that the drug problem caught everyone off guard and that Venezuela is ill prepared to deal with it. In view of this, Fernandez has proposed the creation of an emergency command to struggle against this scourge.

[Begin Fernandez recording] With this statement, I wish to offer the president of the Republic the COPEI's political support, as well as its votes for the financial appropriations that the National Congress may deem necessary to seriously confront—not with declarations and rhetoric, but to seriously confront—this threat that is beginning to develop in our country, and which has the Venezuelan people deeply worried.

The events of the past few days have terrified Venezuelans, and the democratic state must display its efficiency, competence, and strength by defeating drug trafficking and demonstrating the Venezuelan people's resolve to prevent the perversion of Venezuelan public life and the alteration of our people's peace due to the infiltration of this abominable crime. [end recording]

Regarding the case of former Governor Adolfo Ramirez Torres, Fernandez said that the investigation on him that is under way must not in any way involve the political parties. Concerning Ramirez Torres' expulsion from the Democratic Action Party, he said that the party acted correctly, which proves that the Venezuelan people are united and willing to struggle together against drug trafficking.

Army Day, Corabobo Battle Anniversary Celebrated

Speech by President Perez

PA2406184391 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1538 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez on the occasion of Army Day and the 170th anniversary of the Carabobo Battle at the Carabobo Battlefield in Carabobo State—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In Venezuela we are experiencing changes of historical proportions: political, economic, social, institutional, administrative, and cultural changes. The extension and depth of those changes have brought unrest and resulted in serious reactions in the civilian society, which rejects with critical violence past practices.

In the past, only the most clever and astute, or those who presumed the influences and advantages of doing business through links with government officials or with

political parties, had the doors open and their future secured. This practice in the public and private sector is disappearing and will disappear completely. Fortunes obtained overnight with no scruples and associated to corrupt mechanisms regretfully became socially accepted. This was perhaps the most serious hindrance left by times of abundance.

However, Venezuela is not and has never been a corrupt country. Saying this is an affront to our fatherland. It is true that corruption is eroding various sectors. However, I must stress that it is not true that corruption has been or continues to be the lifestyle of Venezuelans. Nor it is true that corruption is the form of conduct of society's leaders. It is not true that the majority of politicians, businessmen, opinion leaders, labor leaders, or military commaders are corrupt.

The truth is different. Venezuela is not a lost country. Venezuela is an essentially honest country. The majority of its leaders are honest. It is absolutely wrong and negative and a big lie to say that in Venezuela, corruption is embracing the decent country that we are. [passage omitted]

I chose this day and place to share these thoughts with Venezuelans. There is no better site than the Carabobo field, sowed with bones and washed with the blood of our heroes, our first Army. A harsh public discussion has started on the nation's Armed Forces and, out of concern and seeking to defend its honor, it was even suggested that I use my power as president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces to silence that debate. I said no. We cannot be afraid of a debate. I know that the vast majority of the Armed Forces members are currently experiencing a bitter moment, withstanding attacks they cannot return. I know that Armed Forces members who are trying to participate in political issues are engaging in forbidden activities and I cannot allow that.

Above all, Venezuelans have confidence and faith in the Armed Forces. This entails more than an offense against the Armed Forces; it is actually a childish nonsense to believe that they have failed to obey their constitutional duties. Criticism has been allowed without restrictions; the military commanders' honor is intact—not because they forbid or curtailed a discussion but because they allowed it. The institutional party leadership is not isolated from the Armed Forces. They are open and without fear or squeamishness to an honest relationship with the civilian world.

We have abolished the myth about the military secret. The only secret things in the Armed Forces, due to security and defense reasons, are the strategic plans, the purchase of weapons, and certain operational issues. Nothing else. Given my willingness to allow an honest and sincere relationship between society and the Armed Forces, I decided, during the last cabinet meeting held on 21 June, to abolish a vast majority of the military secret's articles. The Armed Forces' purchases, which are important most of the time due to their nature and the amount of resources involved, are open to the scrutiny of the comptrollership general and the people. [passage omitted]

This is a time for reforms and all the institutions are experiencing changes in their relations with other sectors of our society, and the Armed Forces cannot be the exception. The Armed Forces are an important, essential part of the country that we are, have been, and can be. The military is made up citizens in uniform who live and experience the complexities and anguish of the situation which currently prevails in the world, particularly in Venezuela. Their institutional participation in the discussions, activities, and proposals to change the country must be allowed and increased. This participation is consistent with the constitutional obligations and restrictions imposed on military men. Their participation in politics is forbidden. They are members of a hierarchically organized institution which considers discipline, command, and obedience essential values, because they are guardians of the Republic's weapons to guarantee the state's sovereignty and safety.

That dichotomy between civilians and the military is only a memory of the past. The Armed Forces have fully integrated the nation's activities. Their presence is direct and permament in all the national events and their increasing and admirable self-improvement process renders them apt for any duty in the country. No subject has been left out in their quest and study. No sector of the Venezuelan society is isolated from the Armed Forces, and they fully participate in all the country's activities. Several topics are being discussed in the political debate. The participation of the military is being sought. The national atmosphere is inclined toward confusion and excesses.

We might find ourselves in the need to restore measures and conditions that are based on the constitution. We will be broad minded and flexible, but we will not allow the military to participate in political debates. Hierarchy and discipline are the essential bases of the military's conduct. The contrary would be to allow the military organization's erosion. But obedience is not blind in democracy, there are ethical and legal norms that do protect immoral, illegal, or illegitimate orders. The military's honor is strengthened by the command structure. There are administrative and judicial structures. The Armed Forces have a fundamental role in the Venezuela of today and of tomorrow. The other sectors in society also have their role, politicians included. In our society, there are deficiencies and contradictions, advances and backward trends. In a dynamic nation that is struggling to implement a modernization and transformation process, it is not possible to create hateful differences, like the kind that occur when there is an attempt to make the political parties responsible for our woes. The true ethical dilemma facing any citizen involves acting against the constitution and the laws; he has to act with

prudence, know that he must preserve and foster democracy, and know that he must respect the liberty which society guarantees to all citizens. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Affirms Loyalty

PA2406174791 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1432 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Message by Defense Minister Vice Admiral Hector Ricardo Jurado Toro, read during the ceremonies commemorating Army Day and the 170th anniversary of the Carabobo battle, at the Carabobo Battlefield in Carabobo State on 24 June—live; read by unidentified master of ceremonies]

[Text] Division General Pedro Remigio Rangel Rojas, General Commander of the Army, at the plain of Carabobo. Distinguished Commander General: The 170th anniversary of our most glorious battle of independence is being commemorated today, 24 June 1991. Because of the importance of this heroic deed and the glorious role that our Army played on the plain of Carabobo, where our forces, eager for freedom, stimulated by courage, and spurred on by their heroism, broke the chains of colonialism and gave Venezuela the permanent birthright of a free and independent homeland, 24 June has been declared the Day of the Venezuelan Army, forger of liberties.

The glories of Carabobo, which today crown those who 170 years ago gave us a homeland and freedom, are crystallized in the men who today form the rank-and-file and cadres of our Army. The traditional commemoration to honor on this anniversary the forces that you command is simultaneously a tribute to the heroes of a battle and an expression of the national pride, because the Army, a steadfast bulwark in close cooperation with the other branches, guarantees national sovereignty, which includes territorial integrity, the inviolability of the institutions, and the full support of the legal, democratically elected government.

This commemoration coincides with a time of confrontation, controversy, and dissension in the media and the highest national forum. These circumstances are very much typical of the climate of democracy and public liberties which Venezuela happily enjoys. The Armed Forces, however, and in view of the reports of alleged events, do not hesitate to resort to the proper authorities, and, with great sincerity, have expressed their determination to clarify everything necessary in the full certainty that their foundations, credibility, and presence in the nation's life will emerge stronger. Subordinated by conviction and principle to the genuinely elected civilian power, we fully abide by the Constitution.

Because of the historic testimony of protagonists who today enjoy the freedom and the rights they attempted to violate, today we bring to mind the lessons of the 1960's, when the nation and the Armed Forces were threatened by the enemies of democratic order, who were bent on imposing in Venezuela a system similar to the one that had just been established in the Caribbean. The authorities affirmed at the time that we should not mistake the actions of those who maliciously want to exploit the Armed Forces' prestige to gain privileges over and above the sympathy and respect that the community should accord the man in uniform because of his delicate role in modern society. The mere fact that he is the first one to risk his own life in a national emergency gives him the right to receive public recognition.

It is important to proclaim and affirm that democracy is a guarantee, not only for the people, but for the professional development and technical improvement of the Armed Forces. More than anyone else, the military man cannot mistake freedom for licentiousness, patriotic denunciation for base slander, democracy for disorder. The Army, and the Armed Forces in general, should feel under these circumstances that their prestige is safe, that their institutional decorum, never tainted by slander, cannot be violated. Within the exercise of democracy, the Armed Forces have reached a consistent and firm maturity that enables them to evolve and progress to higher levels by their attachment to the autonomous political organization that the fathers of our nationality taught us to love with our hearts and honor with our spirits.

The colossal action on the immortal plain of Carabobo is the work of the experienced warring genius of the liberator Simon Bolivar. Our victory, achieved in that immortal action with only a part of the patriot forces, was complete and decisive for our independence, just as our full economic, technological, and cultural independence will occur through the concerted effort of our people and leaders. Thus, we will be able to reach unexpected levels of social security and well-being. We, the men and women who proudly serve the Armed Forces, are professionals in subordination and obedience. The institutional concept is firmly established in our officialdom. The Armed Forces are equipped both with the power that the homeland has entrusted to them and with the principles of morality and justice.

Citizen General Commander, on this Army Day, which commemorates the glorious Battle of Carabobo, I reiterate to you, and through you to all the members of the force that you command, my warmest congratulations. At the same time, I urge the Armed Forces to keep offering the best of their convictions for service and patriotic effort in compliance with the fundamental mission with which we have been entrusted, that is to say, to guarantee national sovereignty, respect for institutions, and our contribution, so Venezuela can attain the lofty destiny that the country is entitled to attain in the concert of the advanced nations of the continent.

God and federation.

[Dated] Fort Tiuna, 24 June 1991.

[Signed] Hector Ricardo Jurado Toro, vice admiral and minister of defense.

Guyana

Hoyte Urges Voters To Reject Racial Politics

FL2506021391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2320 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 24, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte, in the run-up to elections due by yearend, has said Guyanese voters must recognise a new period in politics here and reject politicians who in any way appeal to race.

"We Guyanese must reject them utterly whether their appeal to race and other irrelevant considerations is direct, indirect, personal, or by proxies," President Hoyte told supporters at the National Cultural Centre in the capital at the weekend.

"We must make it clear to them that they have no place in our political life," he said, adding that defeat of politicians who practise "pernicious and nasty" racial politics will bury such politics beyond resurrection.

Analysts here have debated the part old racial divisions could play in the elections, seen as potentially the most open in two decades, after several electoral reforms.

Hoyte told the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) supporters that the changes in the electoral structure were not merely mechanistic: "They will make sense and be of benefit to our nation only if we understand and accept that they must be accompanied by a genuine change in our political culture to give substance to the democratic ideal."

Observing that there are still some political leaders who are "not attuned to the new dispensation," Hoyte said there can be no room for appeals to race.

Hoyte Comments on Economic Reform Policies

FL2006155991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1429 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 20, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte, required to call a general election by yearend, has said any abandonment of current economic restructuring policies here will lose the country needed foreign support.

"If the policies this government (is) pursuing were abandoned, no multilateral agency, including the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) would continue its support for this country," he told senior editors and international correspondents at a briefing.

Hoyte's briefing centred on a recent meeting with Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez which included discussion of a joint approach to the IDB for funding of a link-up of Guyana and Venezuela's Guri hydroelectric dam.

Placing the position of the international financing institutions on the background of the coming elections, Hoyte said: "This means, of course, if we lost the elections and our policies are abandoned, the IDB and the World Bank would not continue to support economic policies that are unsound."

Guyana has undertaken tough structural adjustment measures, including exchange liberalisation, public sector restructuring, and privatisation, in order to re-establishment external credit worthiness and attract new capital.

"My economic policies are sound and I would hope that they would be carried on whoever wins the elections," Hoyte said, adding that he was "very happy" to hear of a recent statement by opposition politician Dr. Cheddi Jagan apparently promising to maintain similar programmes if elected.

Hoyte said he and Perez agreed the two countries will formulate a joint approach to the IDB for funding of the proposed U.S. 100 million dollars power link-up with the huge Guri dam project in Venezuela and the national power grid here.

He said his meeting with Perez at the Venezuelan border town of Kavanayen last Friday included assessment of the economic and political developments of current significance and exchange of views on the strengthening of democracy in the hemisphere. They "noted with approval, evidence of the accelerating impetus towards regional integration," and discussed the coming Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government summit in St. Kitts, which Perez has been invited to address.

"The proposal of the Andean group of presidents for the convening of a meeting of presidents of member countries of the Treaty of Amazonian Co-Operation to discuss the environment in preparation for the World Environmental Conference of 1991 in Brazil also engaged our attention," Hoyte said.

Venezuela's Parliament has ratified a "partial scope agreement" providing for non-reciprocal, preferential reduced-duty access of a range of Guyanese goods to the Venezuelan market, Hoyte said. The agreement is separate and distinct from a Venezuelan offer of a preferential and non-reciprocal arrangement for Caricom countries, the Guyana president said.

Jagan on Nation's Future With Caricom

FL2406123891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2141 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 22, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, has pledged that any new "multi-party government" in Georgetown involving his People's Progressive Party (PPP) would work to achieve a political union of all the Caribbean Community [Caricom] countries. The former premier of colonial British Guiana told a meeting at the University of the West Indies (UWI) here Friday night that the survival of Guyana now hinged on the formation

of a "broad-based multi-party, multi-ethnic, multi-ideological government" to which his party was firmly committed.

He said Caricom's own success in economic and political integration depended on the interest shown and co-operation given by Caricom governments in the promotion of political democracy and economic recovery in his country. Dr. Jagan, here as part of a series of visits he has been making to Caricom countries to mobilise support for free and fair elections in Guyana and to outline the policies of his party in a new government, spoke on the topic, "Guyana: Its Role in the 21st Century."

Dr. Jagan spoke against the backdrop of preparations in Guyana for a delayed general election. He said contrary to campaign propaganda of the incumbent People's National Congress [PNC], the coming election would not be a struggle between the PNC and PPP. Rather, he said, "it will be a battle between the minority PNC and the rest of Guyana."

He said that it was encouraging to know that the United States of America which was once so opposed to him and a PPP government in Georgetown was now playing "a key role" in the promotion of electoral democracy in Guyana. "For the first time since 1964, there is now the possibility of free and fair election in Guyana," said Dr. Jagan.

Whether the opposition parties offer a common slate of candidates or enter the election separately, "there is no way that the PNC can win. It simply does not have the support," he said.

Dr. Jagan, who is his party's presidential candidate for the election, said that in discussions with officials of the U.S. State Department he had made it clear he was ready to co-operate with the USA in terms of America's interest in Guyana and the rest of the Caribbean and Latin America. But, he declared, the U.S. Government also understood "that for me Guyana's interest comes first." He said he would rather remain in opposition than be "anybody's puppet."

He said that a new "people-oriented multi-party government" in Guyana, in which he expects his PPP to have a major but not dominant role, would shy away from "dogmatic, inflexible positions" in responding to "today's needs of the country."

The critical state of the economy, said Dr. Jagan, may make it necessary for a new government to pursue its own path of economic recovery with a revised or modified agreement already signed by the PNC government. In terms of Guyana's debt repayments to Trinidad and Tobago (estimated at U.S. 400 million dollars) and Barbados (approximately U.S. 62 million) under the now defunct Caricom multilateral clearing facility, Dr. Jagan said that a new government would seek to honour such obligations through a series of measures, including joint ventures in agriculture and agro-processing, as well as investment in his country's significant timber industry.

Dr. Jagan said that a new government in Georgetown would have, of necessity, to probe areas of corruption and "other wrong-doings," but he did not expect that given the serious problems facing the country, too much time would be devoted to dealing with the "wrongs of the past."

The PPP leader said that since the 1940's when leaders like the late Norman Manley and Grantley Adams were championing the cause of the West Indian people, he was in favour of a federation with Dominion status. A new Guyana Government involving the PPP would support efforts at strengthening economic integration and promote political unity, he said.

DLM Seeks Ceremonial President, Constitution

FL2206003691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1822 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 21, CANA—The Democratic Labour Movement [DLM], a Guyana opposition party, wants the post of president to be largely ceremonial, with the prime minister the head of government.

The party's proposal is contained in what the DLM says is the first part of its manifesto, just released here. The eight year-old party called for changing the Guyana Constitution along the lines of Trinidad and Tobago's, which would separate the head of state from the head of government.

Paul Tennassee, president of the party, told the Caribbean News Agency the president should be elected by two-thirds of the parliamentarians. He would be head of the military and the titular head of the judiciary.

Guyana's most powerful man is the president, with vice presidents and a prime minister under him. Under the DLM, the prime minister would be the head of government; he would have to win the most votes in Parliament among political parties, Tennassee said. Tennassee reported that under a DLM-led government, ministries would be slashed to ten.

"We intend to offer the private sector two of its representatives to the ministers of Economic Development, Finance, and Public Administration, and minister of Enterprise, Industry, Tourism, and Trade", the bearded DLM leader said.

Another new ministry of Labour, Health, Housing, and Social Services would be headed by a minister drawn from the trade union movement, he disclosed. He also said that the Legal Affairs Ministry would be manned by an appointee from the Guyana Bar Association. Tennassee also wants a Ministry of Defence, which he said would be headed by a top Army officer.

"The DLM believes that the military of Guyana has got to be treated with a great degree of sensitivity," he said.

Guyana's political parties are gearing for a general election, postponed earlier this year because of electoral reform. No date has been set for the poll.

Defense Force To Participate in Exercise

FL2406122091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949 GMT 22 Jun 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 22, CANA—A 30-man contingent of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) left here this weekend for Dominica to participate in a military exercise codenamed "Tradewind." The exercise is being conducted by the Regional Security System (RSS), involving the security forces of some Caribbean Community countries.

According to the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper, this is the first time that Guyana has been invited to participate in the war games. The team is to spend eight days in Dominica. The Guyanese will be involved in anti-terrorist activities, and anti-narcotics and hostage situations. Army Chief of Staff Brigadier Joe Singh and top army officers are expected to be in Dominica for the closing stages of the exercise.

Suriname

Parties Struggle To Form New Government

FL2506005291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1722 GMT 24 Jun 91

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 24, CANA—One month after general elections here, Suriname's political parties are still experiencing the trauma of unsuccessful attempts to form a new government. All efforts to find a framework agreement acceptable to the three parties which share the 51 parliamentary seats on the basis of the May 25 election have so far proven fruitless.

The "care-taker" government, set up after last year's Christmas Eve coup by the military, continues to run the country amid growing apprehension by the Surinamese people over the future. Well-informed sources told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) that divisions even within the leadership ranks of the "New Front"—the four-party alliance which emerged as the front-runner at the elections—were making it "more difficult to reach a concensus in the choice of a president and vice-president of the country."

In accordance with the electoral laws of this culturally diverse, Dutch-speaking Caribbean state of 402,000 people, the independent six-member electoral council has now officially declared the election results to be "legally binding." The New Front has been allocated 30 of the 51 parliamentary seats, with 12 going to the National Democratic Party (NDP), linked to the Surinamese Army, and the newly-formed Democratic Alliance '91 taking the remaining nine seats.

The voter turnout was estimated at 70 percent, compared with the 90 percent of the poll of November 1987, after six years of military or military-civilian administrations. The decline in voter response had its most negative impact on the New Front which together lost 10 seats, the major victim being the Hindustani-based Progressive Reform Party (VHP), headed by one of the country's best known politicians, Jaggernath Lachmon, a lawyer.

CANA sources explained that since the Constitution requires that a government be in place at least one month after new election, and following the "legally binding results," then there should be a new administration in Paramaribo by tomorrow, June 25. However, according to sources close to both the election council and the New Front—which had a comfortable two-thirds majority at the 1987 election when it captured 40 of the 51 seats—the most that could be expected during this week is the "inaugural meeting of the new Parliament." At this meeting the leader of the VHP, Lachmon, is expected to be elected as speaker of Parliament, in keeping with a parliamentary tradition in this multi-racial, multi-ethnic society that its oldest parliamentarian gets the nod for that post.

With eight of the 30 New Front seats to its credit, Lachmon's VHP now holds second place in the four-party alliance to that of former Prime Minister Henck Arron's Creole-based National Party of Suriname (NPS), which bagged 12 of the seats. The two other members of the New Front, the Javanese-linked Party of National Unity and Harmony (KTP) and the New Workers Party of Suriname (SPA), received seven and three seats respectively. The Army-backed NDP, which was given three seats at the November 1987 poll, made a surprising show this time, by winning nine seats, despite the fears of another military coup, continuous jungle warfare involving a well-armed rebellion force and the Suriname Army, and deteriorating living conditions for Surinamese.

Like the newly-formed Democratic Alliance '91, which reportedly polled a significant percentage of the youth vote, the New Front is not keen to form a new government with the Army-linked NDP. The Democratic Alliance's price for a possible team-up with the New Front, CANA sources said, is that the "old guards" of both Lachmon's VHP and Arron's NPS make room "for new, young, and dynamic candidates," an implicit call for some of its own candidates to hold prominent positions, at least a vice-president in the new government.

The NPS, for its part, has been holding out for either the presidency or vice-presidency while the VHP militants have been making demands for both the position of speaker and vice-president. Following the 1987 elections, the presidency went to the VHP's candidate Ramsewak Shankar, with the unanimous consent of the other members of the New Front. It was the Shankar-led civilian government that was overthrown in the 1990 Christmas Eve military coup. Amid fears of another military takeover, the New Front is currently pursuing a plan to form a government without either the NDP or the Democratic Alliance. It hopes to achieve this by

getting the combined votes of its 30 Parliamentary representatives and those of the 289 representatives of the provincial councils in the choice of the president and vice-president, who will then select a cabinet.

Though seemingly unorthodox, the mechanism for such a combined vote is permissible within the framework of the Constitution of Suriname. This move would also underscore the combined strength of the New Front at both the national and local government levels. According to the official results, the New Front commands 85 percent of the Parliamentary and local government seats, including 289 from the provincial councils across Suriname. It is felt in Paramaribo that should the New Front settle ultimately for this option in choosing a president and vice-president, then it is "conceivable that a new government may not be in place before this month-end—at the earliest", well placed sources told CANA.

In the meantime, the interim Army-backed regime installed after last December's coup with Johann Kraag as president, and the NDP's Jules Wijdenbosch as vice-president, continues to run the affairs of the country. This NDP-Kraag-led administration is hoping to send a representative to the forthcoming Caricom summit in St. Kitts next month. Suriname has observer status within the 13-member Caribbean Community.